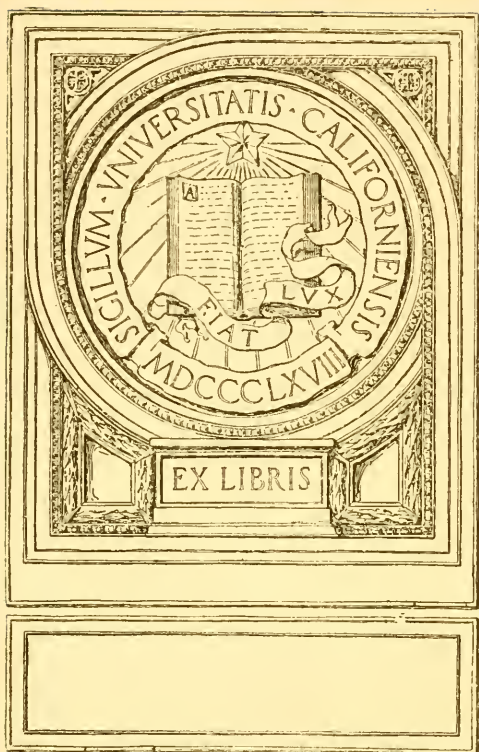


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Publications of the Chetham Society.

LATELY PUBLISHED,

Uniform in size with the publications of the CHETHAM SOCIETY, and designed as a companion-volume to the Histories of the Chapels of Denton, Didsbury and Chorlton, which have already appeared in that series,

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT CHAPEL OF BLACKLEY, IN MANCHESTER PARISH,

Including Sketches of the Townships of Blackley, Harpurhey, Moston and Crumpsall, for the convenience of which several hamlets the Chapel was originally erected; together with Notices of the more ancient of the Local Families and Particulars relating to the descent of their estates.

BY THE REV. JOHN BOOKER, M.A., F.S.A.,
Curate of Prestwich.

N.B.—By permission of the Author, the further issue of this volume is limited to Members of the Chetham Society, in order to afford them an opportunity of completing the series of Chapelry Histories of Manchester Parish. It is requested that early application be made to Mr. Charles Simms, Printer, Pall Mall, Manchester, as but few copies remain on hand. The price charged to Members will be similar to that of the volumes of the Chetham Society.

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REMAINS
HISTORICAL & LITERARY
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES OF
LANCASTER AND CHESTER,
PUBLISHED BY
THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

VOL. XLII.

THE CHETHAM SOCIETY
MANCHESTER

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
M.DCCC.LVII.



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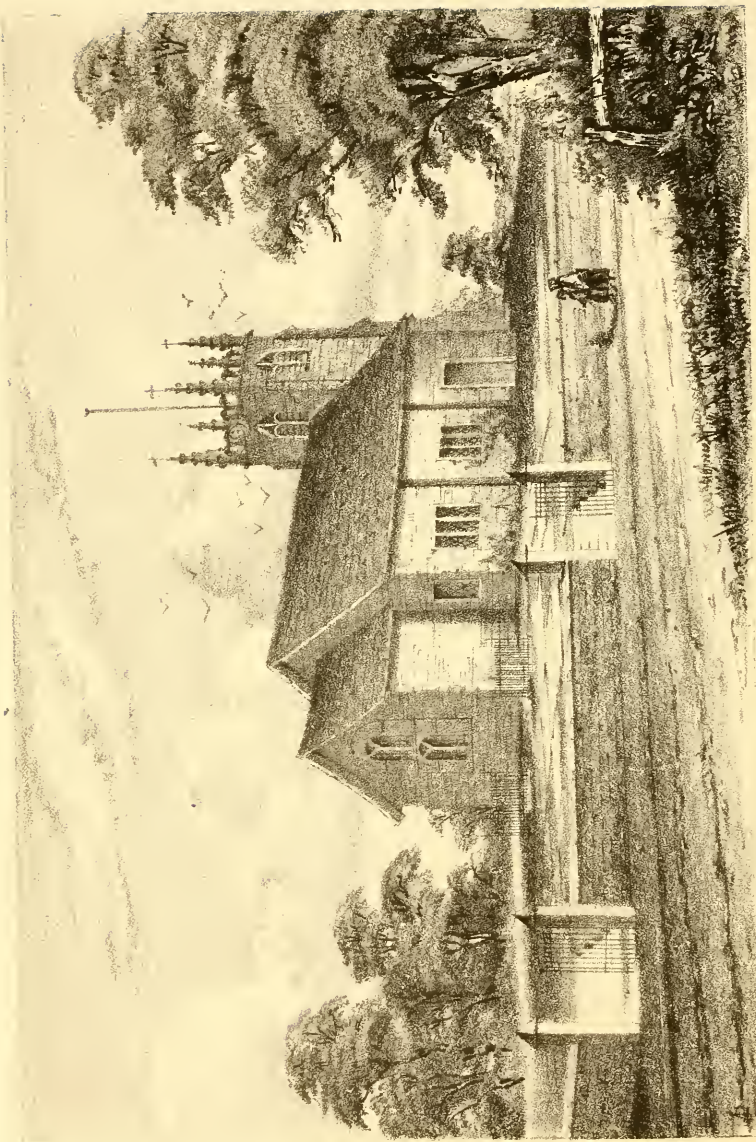
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Royle & Pomeroy Lith'g. Manchester.

Printed & Published by James Groom.

Nidsbury Chapel, IN 1620.

A HISTORY
OF THE
**Ancient Chapels of Didsbury and
Chorlton,**

IN MANCHESTER PARISH,

INCLUDING

SKETCHES OF THE TOWNSHIPS OF DIDSBURY, WITHINGTON, BURNAGE,
HEATON NORRIS, REDDISH, LEVENSHULME, AND
CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY :

TOGETHER WITH

NOTICES OF THE MORE ANCIENT LOCAL FAMILIES, AND PARTICULARS
RELATING TO THE DESCENT OF THEIR ESTATES.

BY THE REV. JOHN BOOKER, M.A., F.S.A.,

OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
CURATE OF PRESTWICH.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.LVII.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages, in continuation of what has been already written, bring to a close the history of one half of the more ancient Chapels in Manchester parish. Four of these Chapels have now appeared, — Blackley, Denton, Didsbury and Chorlton; and the same number yet remain to be described, — Birch, Gorton, Newton and Stretford.

Speaking of the parish of Manchester in the aggregate, its history, civil and ecclesiastical, has been long ago written. The object proposed by the publication of the present series is to view the parish more in detail, regarding each of the Chapels as the immediate centre round which the adjacent groups of population congregate, erected for their special convenience, and the place of their habitual resort.

If there be less of incident in the annals of a rural population within the circumscribed limits of a township than in those of a large parish, there is nevertheless, in minute points of history, sufficient to justify their being collected and their memory perpetuated. This few will deny, and the encouragement the author has received as his labours

have advanced affords abundant evidence that the undertaking meets with general acceptance.

He avails himself of this opportunity of thanking those friends who, by their ready offers of assistance, have made him their debtor. His acknowledgments are specially due to the Rev. WILLIAM JOHN KIDD, Rector of Didsbury; the Rev. GEORGE JOHN PICCOPE M.A., Curate of Brindle near Chorley; the Rev. Canon RAINES M.A. F.S.A., Incumbent of Milnrow near Rochdale; and WILLIAM LANGTON Esq. of Manchester. His best thanks are also due to Mr. JAMES CROSTON of Manchester, once more his associate in literary undertakings, for the pictorial embellishments which impart so much interest to this volume.

PRESTWICH,

APRIL 1857.

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DIDSBURY PAROCHIAL CHAPEL.

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT PAROCHIAL

CHAPEL OF DIDSBURY. p31-86



THE township of Didsbury is situated about five miles and a half south of Manchester and three miles west of Stockport. It is bounded on the north by Withington; on the south by the river Mersey, which there divides the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Burnage and Heaton Norris; and on the west by Chorlton-eum-Hardy and the Mersey, which again separates it from the adjacent county of Chester. It is the most southerly township in the parish of Manchester. Its area has been computed by Messrs. Johnson at 1516 acres; the Tithe Commissioners in the Census Returns of 1851 estimate it 1527 acres; the Ordnance Survey, 1552a. 2r. 21p.; and Rickman, in the Census Returns of 1831, 1560 acres. It lies on the north bank of the river, at a point where the stream is sufficiently shallow to admit of passengers crossing from Didsbury to Northenden; the river and the lands adjacent to the ford receiving anciently the name of Didisford—an appellation still to be traced after the lapse of nearly six hundred years in Ford Bank. Its orthography, like that of other proper names in early times, was very irregular and uncertain; and it is found variously written Dedisbur', Didesbur', Diddesbir', Diddesburie, Diddesberye, Dyddesbury, Dyddysburye, Dyddusburye, Duddesbury, Ditesbery, Dadsbury, Dizbury, &c., the latter syllable of the name signifying

a fortress, or fortified town, of which the Saxon warrior, whose name the earlier syllables express, was the proprietor or chief.

In the 33 Henry III. (1248) Matthew de Hathersage was found in possession of the manor of Hathersage in Derbyshire, and also of lands in Didsbury, Withington, &c., in the county of Lancaster.¹ These lands were held by subinfeudation from Robert de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, who in 1260 did homage to the King and received the seizin of his estates, which amounted to £3000 per annum, including almost the entire lands of South Lancashire. The coheirresses of Hathersage married Goushill of Barlborough and Longford of Longford, both within the county of Derby, about the latter end of the reign of Henry III. By Deed dated the eve of St. John the Baptist, in the 44 Henry III. (1259), we find that a partition of lands was then made between Sir Nigel de Longford and Dame Maud Goushill, an apportionment, doubtless, of the Hathersage estates, which had now descended to the female line by the recent death of Matthew de Hathersage, the last heir male of the family.²

In the succeeding reign, that of Edward I., we find John de Longeford claiming by inheritance free-warren &c. in the above recited lands, and producing in support of his claim a charter granted to his great grandfather, Matthew de Hathersage, by his then Majesty King Henry III. An oath being taken of the Commissioners appointed to investigate the claim, it was decided that the aforesaid John and his ancestors have been entitled to the privileges contended for from the date of the charter submitted for their inspection.³ After the disgrace of Robert de Ferrars

(¹) *Calendarium Rotulorum Chartarum*, p. 66.

(²) *Foundations of Manchester*, vol. iii. p. 125.

(³) Joh'es de Langeford p'fert eartam d'ni H. Reg' p'ris d'ni Reg' nūc dat' auno regni sui t'cesimo t'cio [1248] que testat' q'd d'ns H. Rex cōcessit cuidam Matheo de Hathershegg p'avo ip'ius Joh'is & h'edibus suis lib'am warennā in om'ibꝫ d'nieis t'ris suis man'ior' suor' de Hathershegg, Barleburgg, Kynwaldesmers' & Holan' in com' Derb' & man'ior' suor' de Witinton & Diddesbir' in com' Lane' ita q'd nullus intret t'ras illas ad fugand' in eis aut ad aliquod capiendū quod ad warennā p'tineat sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius Mathei & h'edū suor' sup' forisfact'am d'ni Reg' decem librar'.

and the confiscation of his estates, Didsbury, as a part of his Lancashire possessions, was granted to the family of Grelle, from whom it passed on the decease of the last Baron of that name in 1313 to the Wests, Lords De la Warre.

In a Survey of the extent of the manor of Manchester made in 1322 Didsbury is included in the lower bailiwick of the barony, and is required to contribute towards the maintenance of the lord's bailiff and his subordinates when occupied in the discharge of their duties in the oversight of the manor; allusion is also made therein to a fishery in the Mersey to the middle of the river from Grimesbotham up to Ditesbery Moor, worth 6d. per annum. From a Rental of Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, May 1st 1473, it appears that Nicholas Langforth Knt. holds the demesne of Whithington and Diddesbury by the service of one knight's fee of the said lord, a yearly rent of 9s.; and for castle-ward (a tax upon those residing within a certain distance of any castle towards the maintenance of such as watch and ward the castle) 10s.

This relation between the superior lord and his tenant was found to continue uninterrupted throughout the brief seignory of John Lacy, who in 1578, after a seventeen years' possession of the manor of Manchester, transferred it to Sir Nicholas Mosley, citizen and alderman of London, a member of a family long located in the neighbourhood, who thus added to his influence in Didsbury as a landed proprietor by becoming also lord of the manor, of which Didsbury was a member.

In a Deed executed sometime between the years 1260 and

Precepit eciam d'nus Rex p' se & h'edibus suis q'd p'd'cus Matheus & h'edes sui in p'petuū h'eant lib'am warennā in om'ibꝫ d'nicis t'ris suis man'ior' p'dicor' ita q'd null's intret illas ad fugandū in eis aut ad aliquod capiend' q'd ad warennam p'tineat sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius Mathei et h'edum suor' sup' forisfact'am d'ni Reg' decem libr' sic' p'dictum est. Et die q'd Oliverus p' & au'cessor suus obiit in seis* de p'dicta warennā. Et dicit q'd ip'e eundē statum continuavit &c. set inq'rat' quo modo usus est &c. Jur' d'nt sup' sac'r'm suū q'd p'dictus Joh'es et au'cessores sui a temp'e concesser'onis p'dicte carte debito modo usi sunt warennā sua in p'dictis man'is Jō ip'e ad p'sens inde sine dic &c. — *Placita de Quo Warranto Rot.*, p. 377.

1280, relating to the Slade Hall estate in Rusholme, we have a conveyance on the part of Thomas son of Geoffrey, son of Luke of Manchester, of lands in Diddisford in this township; the conveyance is to Jordan his brother, and the lands are described as given to him by Geoffrey his father.

Meanwhile, by gradual subdivision, the lands of the township passed into the possession of numerous smaller proprietors.

In the 4 Edward VI. (1550) John Kempe and Winifred his wife prefer a claim which is resisted by William Penkythe clerk, parson of Manchester, to a parcel of land called Arnewayes-tottham, and the house thereon and two burgages, the whole situated in Wythynton, Dyddesburye and Stockport.

From the Inquisition p.m. of Sir Edward Warren, eight years later, it appears that he died seized of the manor of Woodplumpton &c., and of lands &c. in Didesbur'. He was son and heir of Laurence Warren Esq. and Margaret his wife, daughter of Sir Piers Legh of Lyme Knt., and was knighted at Leith in 1544. He married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Booth Knt.

In the 33 Elizabeth (1590) Alexander Barlow Esq., the representative of an ancient family in the adjacent township of Chorlton, contested with Sir Ralph Longford Knt. certain privileges connected with the digging of marl and peat on the moors of Barlow and Didsbury. He was also lessee in 1566 of the tithes of the township, which he held from the rapacious Warden Herle. Other proprietors about this time were John Pickering and Thomas Lockwood, who in 1582 held lands in Didsbury as grantees of Nicholas Longford; William Bassett, who in 1588 pleaded in establishment of his claim to a messuage and lands in Withington manor against Dennis Lache, John Cooper and others, and in resistance of their encroachment on Dyddesbury Moor; Lawrence Goodier, who appeared in 1596 in the Duchy Court as defendant in an action brought against him as the wrongful possessor of a messuage and lands in the township, and for intrusion on certain land called Sandland and other specified lands in Didsbury; he died in 1608. His Will was proved at Chester July 4th

in that year. He names his wife Margaret, his daughter Joan, his brother Henry, and his grandson Henry.

Three years later we find Robert Goodier a plaintiff in the same Court against Rowland Mosley Esq., the point at issue between the two being an alleged intrusion on lands in Moss Green in Withington manor.

On the 27th of September 1604 Robert Goodyere, described as of Manchester gent. complainant, exhibited his bill in Chancery against Thomas Sorocold, &c. : That whereas one Ralph Sorocold was possessed of goods &c. in the county of Lancaster, by his last Will dated September, 35 Elizabeth (1592), he bequeathed the same to his children, ten in number, and appointed his wife Katharine and Thomas Sorocold his son and heir executors, the said children being under age except Thomas, who proved the Will. About six years after, she married one Thomas Goodyere the complainant's father, after which, the said Thomas her son took the government of the said children. The said Thomas Sorocold agreed to renounce his executorship to the said Thomas Goodyere, who made an Indenture dated 16th August, 39 Elizabeth (1596), between the said Thomas Goodyere and Katharine his then wife of the first part; John Sorocold, one of the children of the said Ralph Sorocold the said testator, and John Bradshaw and Margaret his wife, daughter of the said Ralph, and Ellen Sorocold, daughter of the said Ralph, of the second part; and the said Thomas Sorocold the said other executor, and Katharine Sorocold, Ann, William, Mary, Ralph, Elizabeth and Sarah, younger children of the said Ralph, and Edmund Prestwich Esq., Robert Hide of Denton, Richard Midgeley, Richard ffoxe and William Wood, friends and guardians of the said younger children during their minority, of the third part. Katharine Goodyere died and then her husband Thomas Goodyere.

On the 13th of February 1605-6 their son Robert Goodyere and Elizabeth his wife appeared before the Consistory Court at Chester, and confessed that they were present at the clandestine marriage of Biron Culcheth with Ellen Goodiere.

In 1578 Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. prosecuted Ralph Woods and Hugh Gynney at Lancaster for trespass on Didsbury Moor; it does not however appear that the Traffords possessed any greater interest in Didsbury than that of participating in the rights, advantages and profits of the waste lands in the township. Of the family of Gynney or Yannes, long resident in the township, many scattered and incidental allusions have reached us. In 1673 one Mr. Yannes, minister of some adjacent cure, preached at Didsbury Chapel, as appears from the Churchwardens' accounts of that period; and eight years after, Samuel Yannis of Didsbury gent. marries Margaret Mainwaring of Warford. An early Inquisition p.m. of Ingelramus de Gynnes, dated in the reign of Edward II., assigns to him lands &c. in Whittington, Asheton and Lancaster; from the similarity in name he is presumed to be of the same family.

From the Inquisition p.m. of Sir Robert Lovell Knt., in the 44 Elizabeth (1601), we find him seized at his death of lands in Didsburie, Chorleton, Withington and Streitford. Sir Robert Lovell was the eldest son of Gregory Lovell of Merton in the county of Surrey Esq., Cofferer to the Queen's Household, by his second wife Dorothy, daughter of Nicholas Green.

The family of Twyford occupied at an early period a degree of prominence in the township in the ranks of substantial yeomen. John Twyford of Didsbury, who describes himself as a yeoman, makes his Will in January 1622. He names his wife Alice, his sons John, Robert, Edward, Richard and Daniel, and his daughters Anne and Ellen. He appoints his wife and his son John to execute his Will, and "would intreate my wor^{ll} M^{rs} Anne Mosley to be supervisor of the same." He held two other tenements in the township on lease, besides that whereon he resided. The Inventory of his goods and chattels taken at his death amounted to £171 16s. 8d.

In 1646 Richard Twyford of Didsbury yeoman, an adherent to the royalist cause, compounded for his estate by the payment of

£44, as also did Robert Twyford gent., whose estate was charged with the payment of £45 15s. 4d. Margaret, wife of Robert Twyford of Didsbury gent., was sister of John Radcliffe of Manchester gent., whose Will was proved at Chester in 1647. The Rev. Robert Twyford, curate of Didsbury in 1726, and his son and successor, who died in 1795, were doubtless members of the same family.

Didsbury seems to have warmly espoused the cause of Charles I. in striking contrast to most of the other townships in Manchester parish, influenced probably by the counsels and example of Sir Edward Mosley of the Hough, at whose house in Alport the royalist general, Lord Strange, was lodged and entertained during the memorable siege of Manchester in 1642. In the following year, on the retreat of the royalist party from Wigan after their surrender of that town, we learn that a slight skirmish ensued at Didsbury, partaking more of the character of a personal encounter. It is thus spoken of in a contemporary narrative: "A certain tall young gentleman was constrained to force his way at Didsbury near Manchester, when accompanying the retreat, through the midst of forty clubmen, who laid at him with their clubs and yet could not bring him to the dust." This young man has never been satisfactorily identified; a rumour prevailed at the time that it was Charles II., but this was speedily dissipated.¹

In addition to the Twyfords the name of Robert Trevillian of Didsbury yeoman also occurs in the annals of the township as having paid in 1646 the sum of £50 for the redemption of his estate; and earlier, in 1642, while yet the contest between the King and the Parliament was undecided, we find the grave yard of the Chapel selected as the burial place of several royalist officers who had lost their lives in the siege. In 1745 too, in further evidence of the like sympathy, the adherents of the proscribed Stuarts met near Didsbury, and in the Register Book of the Chapel, under the date December 10th 1745, the following entry

(¹) *Civil War Tracts*, Chetham series, p. 309.

occurs: "A poor man buried at Didsbury, found dead in Heaton when y^e rebels past."

In the 13 Elizabeth (1570) one Thomas Rudd entered an action at Lancaster against Nicholas Longford and Adam Blomeley in relation to a messuage and appurtenances in Didsbury, called the "Broad Oke," at that time in his occupation, but whether as owner or lessee does not appear. In 1655 John Rudd resided at the Broad Oak, and was a ratepayer in the township; and it is worthy of remark that there has been a continuous occupation of the same premises by the Rudd family for upwards of three hundred years, the present tenant Mr. John Rudd now holding it under the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden.

About the commencement of the last century a family named Broome first settled in the township as stewards or law agents to Sir John Bland; they stood also in a like relation to the Barlows of Barlow in Chorlton, and for several generations practised as attorneys in Manchester, purchasing from time to time such lands in Didsbury and the neighbourhood as the improvidence of the two successive baronets, the Blands, compelled them to dispose of. William Broome of Didsbury gent. married sometime before March 24th 1749 Elizabeth, youngest sister of Captain James Dawson, the hero of Shenstone's ballad of "Jemmy Dawson;" their eldest son and heir was William Broome of Didsbury Esq., a Justice of the Peace for the county of Lancaster, who died without issue in 1810.¹ The heiress married into the Fielden family, and the estates are now vested in the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden.

Didsbury not only derived its name from one of its former inhabitants, but it also lent its name to a family long resident within its limits and perhaps not yet extinct. William de Didsbury witnesses the transfer of Birch Hall and its demesne from the Hathersage family to Matthew de Birch about the middle of the thirteenth century, and the name again occurs in a Deed of the same period relating to the conveyance of certain lands in

(¹) *Cheshire and Lancashire Historical Collector*, vol. ii. p. 29.

that part of the township anciently known as Diddisford. John Didsburie makes his Will August 28th 1623, desiring to be buried "in the churche or chappell yord at Didsburie." He leaves his house and premises to his wife and eldest son, "she to have all the romes on the north end of the house and my son the rest upon the south end, and to be both of them at one fyre and to fynd the fyre betwixt them." At a later period one John Didsbury was Chapelwarden of Didsbury in 1701, and the name of James Didsbury appears in the list in 1746.

Towards the east of the township and lying north-east of the village of Didsbury is the White Hall estate, in the reign of Elizabeth held on lease by Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who by his Will devised the same to his eldest son Rowland, subject however to an annual payment of £20 to Anthony Mosley testator's second son, and the further sum of £6 13s. 4d. to Margaret, only child of the said Anthony Mosley. The name of the then owner is not given. It is now the property of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh Esq.

Parr in this township, or, as it has been designated by modern tautology, Parr's Wood, was known by this name before the year 1587. Its signification is a high or hilly place, a grove or wood, a hill covered with wood, from the Anglo-Saxon *bearo*; other etymologists connect it with the verb *beran* (to bear, to bear fruit), and take it to mean specially a wood that supplied mast for fattening swine.

At the east of the township, where the Mersey forms the boundary-line, is a tract of low land called, from its position, "Didsbury Eea;" the word *ea* in Anglo-Saxon signifying water. The same designation is used in the neighbouring township of Chorlton to indicate the low level of certain land bordering on the river, the name Chorlton in that instance being substituted for Didsbury.

In 1845 the number of landowners in the township was fifty-two, of whom the following were the chief:—

	A.	R.	P.
The Rev. Robert Mosley Fielding..... ..	516	3	8
James Heald Esq.	184	3	34
Hesketh Lloyd Bamford Hesketh Esq.....	125	0	29
The Executors of the late Joseph Birley Esq.	63	1	0
George Withington Esq..... .	51	1	12
John Atwood Beever Esq.	49	3	19
Samuel Hampson Esq.	44	0	22
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.	38	0	32
John Daniel Souchay, Esq..... .	31	2	38
Mr. Thomas Baxter	30	2	27
Mr. Matthew Brundrett	30	1	5
Mr. Nathan Slater	24	1	25
Trustees of the Audenshaw School	21	1	39
Mr. Thomas Worthington	20	1	3
Trustees of the Wesleyan College	9	0	16
Trustees of the Didsbury School	7	2	12
Churchwardens of Didsbury	3	1	0
Roads and Waste, including the River Mersey	58	1	16

Assuming the area of the township to be 1474 acres, it was thus divided: arable land, 700 acres; meadow and pasture land, 769 acres; buildings, 5 acres.

In the village of Didsbury is located one of the two theological institutions established by the Wesleyans for the training of students in preparation for the ministry; (the other is at Richmond, in Surrey.) It originated in the commemoration of the centenary of Wesleyan Methodism, and the cost of its erection was defrayed out of the centenary fund, a subscription of nearly a quarter of a million sterling raised in 1839.

In 1840 ten acres of land were purchased in Didsbury, at the rate of £200 per acre, and suitable buildings were erected thereon at a further outlay of about £18,000. There was a handsome stone mansion on the estate when purchased,—the residence at

one time of the late Colonel Parker; this was retained, and it now forms the centre of the pile. Two retiring wings were added, the whole forming three sides of a quadrangle. Accommodation is provided for the governor and his family, and forty students, together with a library and lecture and class rooms. Separated from the college is the chapel, a neat brick building in the pointed style, containing sittings for about three hundred persons, intended not only for the institution but also for the inhabitants of the village. On either side of the chapel are the residences of the theological and classical tutors. The college was opened September 22nd 1842, when the Liturgy of the Church of England was read and a sermon preached by the President of the Conference. The cost of its maintenance is about £2,500 per annum.

The Wesleyans were not without their religious services at Didsbury before the erection of the chapel just adverted to. Upwards of thirty years ago they occupied a large room over a wheelwright's shop for the purposes of public worship, in which also they conducted a Sunday school. This room having become too small a larger one was built about sixteen years since, which is yet devoted to its original use.

The earliest Population Returns for Didsbury are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits but 84 houses, tenanted by 86 families or 499 individuals. Of these, two hundred and nine were under the age of 15; sixty-five above 50; fifteen above 60; two above 70; seven above 80; and one exceeding 90 years.

In 1801 the township contained 116 houses and 619 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 738; in 1821 to 933; houses 159, families 172, of whom 51 were engaged in agriculture, 107 in manufactures, and 14 otherwise employed; in 1831 there were 3 houses uninhabited and 181 occupied by 187 families, of whom 81 were engaged in agriculture, 83 in manufactures, and 23 otherwise, — total population 1067; in 1841 there were 4 empty houses, 2 building, and 234 occupied by a population of 1248; in 1851 there were 274 houses tenanted, 4 empty, and 6 building, — total population 1449.

In 1655, 61 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, amongst whom were Mr. Robert Twyford, Edward Chorleton, James Birch, Colonel Birch, Mrs. Goodyear, Sir Edward Mosley, Widow Mosley, William Wood (parish clerk), his widow, Thomas Blomeley (Bankes), Thomas Birch, Henry Ridinge, Thomas Blomeley alias Kings, Mr. Levenshulme, John Rudd of the Oak, &c. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 383, and the total amount of rates collected £787 19s. 10d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor was in the latter year £11,911 15s. 4d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township as assessed to the land tax was £245 9s. 2d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county rate £3,933; in 1829, £6,318; in 1841, £9,662; and in 1853 £9,780. Didsbury is in the polling district of Manchester, and in 1854 contained 62 county voters. There were in the township in 1854 three public-houses and three beerhouses.

List of Roads belonging to the township of Didsbury, describing their beginnings and endings, with the measurement thereof liable to be repaired by statute duty, made November 7th 1795 : —

1. Highway Turnpike Road. Beginning at Cheadle Bridge and ending at a stone set up on this side Withington Bridge; length 1 mile 2 quarters 433 yards.
2. Boulton Wood Gate Lane. Beginning at the Three Lane Ends on the turnpike road, and ending at a stone set in the hedge on this side Barlow's Gate; length 426 yards.
3. Milngate Lane. Beginning at Thomas Whitelegg's on the turnpike road, continued over Gatley Ford, and ending at the commencement of Watry Lane; length 1 mile 311 yards.
4. Stenner Lane. Beginning at Duke's Hill, continued over Northen Ford, and ending immediately over a culvert in King's Lane; length 3 quarters 7 yards.
5. Car Brow Lane. Beginning at Crabb Croft's Gate and ending at the Alder's Fender, near the Braddiley; length 1 quarter 246 yards.

6. Barlow Moor Lane. Beginning at the Grey Horse public-house and ending at a fence across the road behind Samuel Mycock's house ; length 1 mile 1 quarter 88 yards.
7. Fogg Lane, Beginning at the fifth mile stone from Manchester and ending at a nicked oak near to Barcicroft Gate in Burnage ; length 2 quarters 125 yards.

The above are all the roads belonging to the township of Didsbury liable to be repaired with statute duty and composition ; all other roads are repaired by tenure or occupation.

	M.	Q.	Y.
Total Turnpike Road	1	2	433
Total Bye Roads	4	1	323
<hr/>			
Total miles.....	6	0	316
<hr/>			

JOHN RUDD, }
THOS. WOOD, } Surveyors.

Didsbury Chapel is the most ancient of all the chapels in the parish of Manchester, having been founded, as it is supposed, about the year 1235. At first it was probably nothing more than a private oratory limited to the use of the lord of the manor or other influential persons who planned its erection, but increasing in importance and size as permission was extended to the tenantry and others to worship there until at length in 1352 it became a parochial chapel. "In this year," according to Hollingworth, "a commission was granted by Roger de Norbury, Bishop of Lichfield, for the consecration of the chapel-yard of Didsbury within the parish of Manchester, in order to the burial of such as died of the pestilence in that hamlet and in neighbouring hamlets in the chapel-yard there, because of their distance from the Parish Church of Manchester."¹ There is a local tradition that the ma-

¹ *Chronicles of Manchester*, p. 36. On the 30th of November 1823 an additional plot of land adjoining the chapel-yard was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester for the interment of the dead. It was purchased of Robert Fielden Esq. after the rate

terials used in the erection of the first structure were the remains of an old church pulled down in St. Mary's Gate, Manchester, brought in the first instance to Withington Green and afterwards removed to Didsbury; but as this is a claim shared also in common with the halls of Ordsall, Clayton and Trafford, which were said to have been in part built from the old materials of Manchester Church, it is little to be relied on except so far as possibly justifying the inference that in material at least the early chapel of Didsbury resembled the early church of Manchester, both being composed of transverse beams of wood filled in with lath and plaster, a style of building very generally adopted in the more ancient chapels within Manchester parish, of which the only instance now remaining is the chapel of Denton.

In 1620 Didsbury Chapel was entirely rebuilt of stone, a tower being now probably first added. No faculty seems to have been obtained for this rebuilding, nor can any deed be found relating to the consecration of the earlier chapel which had given place to this, or of the chapel-yard solemnly set apart in 1352, notwithstanding a careful search in the Episcopal Registries of York, Lichfield and Chester, and also in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Richmond.

The style of architecture is that known as the Debased, thus denominated from the general inferiority of design as compared with the style which it immediately succeeded. The plan comprised a nave 45 feet by 34 feet 6 inches internal admeasurement, a chancel 24 feet by 24 feet, and a tower at the western end, the details throughout being extremely plain. The nave was divided on either side into three bays, two of these being filled with plain square-headed windows, exhibiting an almost total absence of

of 1½d. the yard, or eighteen years' purchase, £50 being paid in addition, the estimated value of two small cottages thereon; the cost was defrayed by a subscription of £360 and a church-rate of 6d. in the pound. Amongst those who assisted by their subscriptions were Wilbraham Egerton Esq. £50, Robert Parker Esq. £40, Robert Fielden Esq. £20, Joseph Birley Esq. £20, Francis Philips Esq. £20, William Wood M.D. £20, Rev. Joseph Newton £20, Thomas Mottram Esq. £20, Messrs. Thomas and James Borron £20.

ornamentation, the third bay towards the extreme west on the north and south sides constituting the principal entrances to the church. The chancel was lighted by two triplet windows of singularly inclegant design, placed one over the other, the centre light arch-headed, and rising above the lateral. The roof of both the nave and chancel was of more acute pitch than is usually found in buildings of this period, and extended some distance beyond the outer surface of the walls in what are termed dripping eaves. In 1770 the chancel was rebuilt, and in 1791 galleries were erected on the north and south sides of the nave, a gallery having been previously erected at the west end, — particulars of which successive alterations will be seen in the abstracts of faculties elsewhere given. In 1855 the north-east, north-west, and south-east entrance doors were closed, and one large entrance to the church made through the tower at the west end. The church underwent a thorough restoration, and considerable alterations were made both in the internal and external appearance of it. In these alterations, though of a somewhat earlier style than the edifice itself, the details are correct in design, and in perfect keeping with the style adopted. The outer walls have been re-cased with stone, the old square windows removed, and their place supplied by others chiefly pointed, and Tudor-arched, divided by mullions into three lights, transomed, and the heads filled with perpendicular tracery of good design, the principal as well as the subordinate lights cinquefoiled, and the whole surrounded by a hood-moulding finished with a plain return. Buttresses are placed at intervals against the walls, those flanking the eastern gable and at the junction of the nave with the chancel being carried up to the extreme edge of the parapet, and terminating in octagonal pinnacles crocketed at the angles. The windows of the chancel are of two and three lights, square-headed and divided horizontally by a transom, the lights foliated in the head. The east end of the chancel is lighted by a large Tudor-arched window of five lights, cinquefoiled, the mullions carried vertically through to the head, and transomed. This window is filled with richly stained glass by Wailes of Newcastle. In the

centre light of the upper tier is a figure of the Saviour, and in the side lights are figures of the four Evangelists, with the name in black-letter characters at the foot of each. In the lower range the centre light contains a representation of the crucifixion, with the two Mariés at the foot of the cross. In the side lights are figures of four of the apostles — Sanctus Petrus, Sanctus Paulus, Sanctus Jacobus major, Sanctus Thaddeus. Beneath the centre light is the inscription in black-letter : — “ This window presented by John Moss, Joseph Bull, and William Hobbs ; ” and below this, cut in the masonry, + Anno Salutis MDCCCLVI. W. J. Kidd, clerk rector ; John Moss, Joseph Bull, ch. wds.

Surmounting the apex of the eastern gable is a floriated cross. The tower is of three stories, supported by diagonal buttresses of five stages, with sloped set-offs. The basement story now forms the principal entrance to the church ; the doorway has a depressed four-centred arch within a square hood-moulding, finished with a plain return, and the spandrels filled with carved foliage ; the jambs consist of a single round and hollow moulding, continued round the head without a break. Above this and separated from it by a moulding is the room appropriated to the ringers, lighted on the west side by a Tudor-arched window of four lights, cinque-foiled, and the head filled with perpendicular tracery. This window as well as the doorway of the tower have been added during the alterations already noticed. The upper story contains the bells, and is lighted on each side by a plain pointed window of two lights fitted with louvre-boards. The parapet is embattled, pierced with small semicircular openings, and beneath is a hollow cornice moulding. Surmounting each angle is a crocketed pinnacle ; and smaller pinnacles of the same character rise from the middle of each parapet. On the east side of the tower is the date 1620, and the letters W. R., probably the initials of the builder, and on a stone on the north side is the inscription : —

S^r EM : FOVN
AM. WID : DERS

EM : ESQ : S^r GB : K <> &...
PATRON : BARONET *

.....16
AN O2C

A clock is placed on the east side of the tower, immediately under the parapet.

From a ground plan of the chapel, as it appeared about this time, we find the nave divided into a centre and side aisles, the whole filled with pews or benches; an avenue running from west to east divided the centre into two compartments; the pulpit and reading desk occupy the space of two or three benches in the northern division of the central compartment, within two yards of the chancel. The two entrances, north-west and south-west, were placed immediately opposite each other, and an avenue communicated across the chapel from door to door. At the eastern extremity of the north aisle where the nave and chancel join is a clear space of nine feet by six feet, marked the "Barlow Chappel," the occasional burial place of the Barlows of Barlow, an influential Roman Catholic family residing in the adjacent township of Chorlton, whose more customary place of interment however was the Collegiate Church of Manchester. Before the Reformation it is probable that this private chapel in Didsbury Church was more generally availed of by the family both for the purposes of divine service and also of sepulture. The chancel, twenty-four feet square, contained on the south side three pews or benches in continuation of those in the nave, and of corresponding size. In the south-east corner is a space nine feet square, marked on the plan "Mosley's Chapel," occupying more than a third of the east wall and pushing the communion table from its usual central position towards the opposite corner. The entrance to the chancel was by a door penetrating the south wall between the Mosley Chapel and the three pews already alluded to. It is interesting thus to determine the precise apportionment to the Mosleys and Barlows in the Didsbury Chapel of old time, especially since there exists nothing even traditional respecting it. In the case of the former, it will be seen that the monuments erected to the memory of the various members of the family were all placed within the precincts of their own private chapel. The other benches bear no names,

nor is any place assigned to the font. In the interior of the church, as it now appears, the aisles are separated from the nave on either side by three semicircular arches supported by plain cylindrical shafts. Before the year 1770 the aisles did not extend beyond the nave, but at that time the chancel was enlarged and the aisles continued the entire length of the building; from the chancel they are separated on either side by two depressed four-centred arches resting upon octagonal columns with moulded capitals and bases. The roof of the nave is of timber-work, open to the ridge, and of plain design, the frame-work consisting of horizontal tie-beams resting upon vertical wall-pieces and strengthened beneath by curved bracing-ribs springing from plain corbels; king-posts rise from the centre of each tie-beam and are carried up to the ridge-piece; these, as also the struts which support the purlins and principal rafters, have their edges chamfered. The chancel roof is also of timber-work, but differing somewhat in design from that of the nave; the walls are connected by bracing-ribs springing from corbels supporting collars on which the purlins rest. The chancel is separated from the nave by an obtuse angled arch supported by corbels, and underneath this are placed the pulpit and reading desk, the former of oak enriched with carving in the Arabesque style, and probably of the same date as the building itself.

The particulars of successive alterations under the influence of which during the past century the chapel has lost many of its original features, may be gleaned from the following abstracts of Faculties:

1751, December 9th. Faculty granted to William Twyford clerk, curate of Didsbury, James Bayley Esq. the younger and Richard Broome and William Broome gentlemen, owners of certain messuages and estates within the said chapelry, to erect at their own expenses a loft or gallery at the west end of the chapel, in length thirty-four feet, in breadth or depth from the west wall eastwards thirteen feet seven inches, with a convenient staircase

to lead thereto from the outside of and through the west end wall of the said chapel if that may safely be done. To assign and dispose of the pews therein to themselves and such other inhabitants of or owners of messuages and estates within the said chapelry as stand in need of seats or pews, and will pay for them not only their rateable shares of the whole expense in and about the erection of the said gallery, but also certain reasonable annual rents as shall be agreed upon amongst them, to be paid to the minister of the said chapel for the time being.

1757, September 15th. Faculty granted to the Rev. William Twyford clerk, curate of the chapel of Didsbury, to erect a gallery on the south side of the aforesaid chapel, in length sixteen feet, in breadth nine feet; to dispose of the seats therein to the inhabitants of the said chapelry for the profit and advantage of the said William Twyford and his successors, curates of the said chapel.

1770, August 10th. Faculty to rebuild the chancel.

Samuel Peploe clerk, Doctor of Laws, Vicar General, to our beloved in Christ Anne Bland spinster, the patroness of the chapel of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster and diocese of Chester, and William Broome Esq. of Didsbury aforesaid, the owner and proprietor of divers messuages and tenements and lands situate in the chapelry of Didsbury aforesaid, greeting: Whereas upon representation made to us that the chancel of the chapel of Didsbury aforesaid was very old, ruinous and decayed, and that the pews, stalls and seats in the said chapel and chancel were very old, irregular and decayed, and not conveniently capable of holding the inhabitants; and that the said Anne Bland and William Broome were desirous to take down and remove the said old chancel and the pews, stalls and seats therein, and to build a larger chancel with a gallery or galleries, and new, regular and uniform seats or pews therein, in the room of the said old chancel and on part of the yard of the said chapel, by taking in eight feet on the north and also eight feet on the south side thereof, so as

to make the said intended new chancel of the same breadth or width with the nave or body of the said chapel, and to sell and dispose of the new pews and seats in the said intended new chancel at reasonable rates to and among the inhabitants of the said chapelry, reserving a certain chief-rent or sum of money to be paid yearly for each of those said new seats and pews to the minister or curate of the said chapel for the time being to and for his own use and benefit, and to build a vestry on the south side of the communion table and a staircase and stairs on the north side thereof to lead to the said gallery or galleries, and also to remove and take away the said old pews, stalls and seats in the said chapel, and in the room thereof to build new, handsome and convenient pews or seats all of one decent, regular and uniform order, and that the same might be set to the inhabitants of the said chapelry at certain reasonable rents, to be paid also to the minister or curate of the said chapel yearly to and for his own use, better support, and maintenance, — We did emit a general citation upon Sunday the 23 day of July last for all persons professing to have a right or interest in the said chapel or chancel to appear before us or our lawful Surrogate upon Thursday the 27 day of July aforesaid; and whereas no person appearing to show cause to the contrary, therefore we the said Vicar General grant unto you the said Anne Bland and William Broome our commission and authority to take down and remove the old chancel and the pews, stalls and seats therein, and to build a larger and more convenient and handsomer chancel with a gallery or galleries, and to set and let such new pews or seats to the inhabitants of the said chapelry at certain reasonable rents or sums of money, to be paid and made payable to the minister or curate of the said chapel yearly to and for his own use and better support and maintenance, for the use of themselves and their families, all others excluded without their leave first had and obtained to use the same; willing and requiring you that so soon as you shall have fully executed the commission you return to us a full certificate thereof, together with a chart or

plan of the seats or pews built anew in the said chancel, chapel and gallery or galleries respectively, and the names of the respective inhabitants to whom you have allotted and disposed of the same, and the respective rents or sums payable for the same to the minister or curate of the said chapel for the time being, by virtue of your allotment or disposition thereof, in order for our future approbation and confirmation thereof, and together also with these presents. Dated at Chester the 10 day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy.

H. SPEED,

Dep. Regr.

The next step was the erection of a north gallery from the front of the west gallery to the east window, and of a south gallery extending from Mr. Twyford's gallery to the east window of the chancel—both erected at the same time, during the incumbency of the Rev. John Newton, about twenty years after the rebuilding of the chancel, and both erected without Faculty.

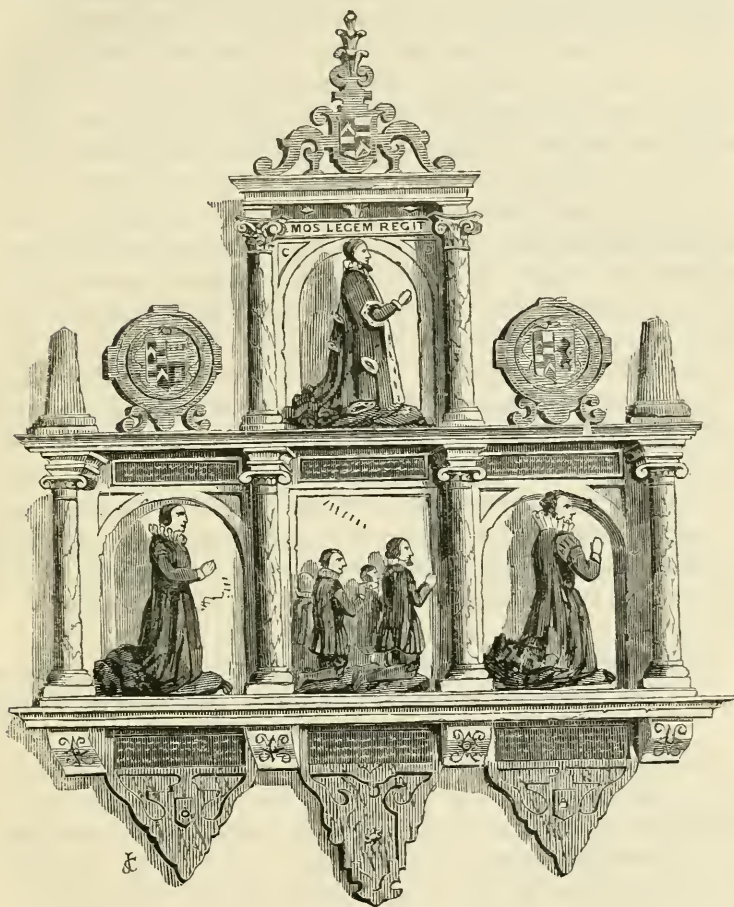
1841, July 1st. Faculty granted to the Rev. William John Kidd, incumbent, John Thorniley and John Ogden, wardens, Joseph Birley, George Withington, Robert Gladstone, Hugh Birley junr., and Hartley Packer Gisborne, pew-owners and leypayers of the said chapelry; to pull down the north and south side walls from the tower to the chancel, which are now three feet and a half thick, and to rebuild them of a thickness of two feet only; and to allot to every person now in possession of a pew a pew of the same dimensions (if practicable), liable to the same rent and other payments as those given in exchange, the rent to be increased or diminished in proportion to the smaller or larger space given; also to appropriate the pews of the side aisle to the poor; a pew each to be provided (not subject to any annual rent or payment) for the minister, wardens, singers, and the font. It was estimated that the present accommodation was limited to five hundred sittings, none of which were free, and it was expected that

such alterations as now proposed would secure about two hundred and fifty additional sittings.

1855, July 31st. Faculty granted to the Rev. William John Kidd clerk, rector of Didsbury, Joseph Bull and John Moss churchwardens; to remove the north-east and south-east staircases to galleries; to close the north-east and south-east entrance doors, and to erect additional pews on the area now occupied by them; to make one large entrance to the church through the tower at the west end, carrying staircases to the galleries from the west end inside the tower; to remove a portion of three pews in the south gallery, and of two pews in the north gallery, so as to obtain a passage along each gallery, and to widen the open space over the communion table; to case the outside walls of the church with stone, the tower excepted; to raise the roof over the north and south galleries, and to improve the ventilation, which will include some alteration in the windows; to remove two monuments from the eastern wall, and to place them, one on the south pillar and the other on the north pillar of the chancel arch; to remove the font from under the tower to the south-west corner of the body of the church near the entrance porch. The alterations sanctioned by the above abstracted faculty were carried into effect (with the exception of the clause relating to the monuments, — these were allowed to remain on the east wall) at a cost of £1,600.

The church contains several monuments, but with the exception of that to the memory of Sir Nicholas Mosley they do not call for any particular notice. The monument in question is attached to the east wall in that part of the chancel which was formerly known as the Mosley Chapel. It is a heavy columnar structure of two stages; the lower, of three compartments divided by Ionic columns; the upper, of one compartment flanked by columns supporting a frieze or entablature, which is surmounted by an ornament in the heavy Tudor style, enclosing a heraldic shield blazoning the family arms. The centre compartment of the lower stage is square in form, framed in mouldings; but the two lateral compartments in this, and the upper stage are circular-headed arches with decorated

architraves in colours. On the cornice of the lower stage, over each lateral compartment, is placed a large oval, like a glass mirror,



the frame of reddish marble, the inside coloured blue, each charged with the arms of Sir Nicholas, the one shield impaling those of his first wife, —arg. a lion rampant gu.; the other those of his

second, — gu. a chess-rook arg. on a chief arg. three roses gu. The upper arch is filled with a full-length figure of Sir Nicholas himself in his robes of office as Lord Mayor of London, a scarlet cloak edged with ermine; he wears a black skull-cap bordered with white; and looks a grave and reverend man with bushy beard. The two lateral arches of the lower stage also contain a figure each: that to the spectator's left, of a lady in long blue cloak, white petticoat and Elizabethan ruff, kneeling on a crimson cushion, her hands joined and raised in prayer; that to the spectator's right of a lady in long blue cloak and ruff, kneeling and praying; these representing the two wives of Sir Nicholas. The centre compartment of this stage represents four male figures kneeling; the eldest, of mature years, bearded; the other three, youths of different ages. All the figures in the monument present the right profile. The monument is chiefly of marble and Derbyshire marble, spar and alabaster. The two outer columns of the lower stage are of blue dove marble, and on the cornice above them are placed two pyramidal obelisk-like ornaments, on feet. The whole monument appears to rest on four wall-brackets. The four central columns, above and below, are of Derbyshire spar. There are several inscriptions on the entablatures, and on the tablets beneath the three lower compartments; they are as follow: —

“This is in memory of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt. sometyme Lord Mayor of London, who dyed the 12 day of December, 1612, of y^e age of 85, and lyeth here interred.”

“Margaret Whitbroke, his 1st wife, by whom he had 6 sons and 2 daughters.”

“Elizabeth, his second wife, at whose cost this monument was erected, dyed without issue.”

Other inscriptions of a later date follow: —

1. “Rowland Mosley Esq. sonne and heyre of Sr. Nicholas, first married Anne Houghton, by whom he had issue a son

and daughter : After, the aforesaid Rowland married Anne Sutton, one of the co-heiresses of Sutton, by whom he had issue Edward, his son and heyre, and Ann his daughter, yet living ; and he died 23d. Feby. 1616, and lieth here interred."

2. "Anthony Mosley his second son yet living."
3. "Sir Edward Mosley Knt. his youngest son, Att^y. Gen^l. of the D^utchy of Lancaster now living at Rolleston in Staffordshire."

At the east end of the chancel near to Sir Nicholas Mosley's monument is a tablet to the memory of the Dowager Lady Ann Bland, with this inscription : —

Here lyes y^e Body of Ann Lady Dowager BLAND
Sole Daughter & Heiress of S^R EDWARD MOSLEY
Of Hulme Knt. — She married S^R IOHN BLAND
Of Kippax Park in y^e County of York Bart.
To whom She brought a plentiful Estate
In this Neighbourhood & by Whom She had
A numerous Issue, though None of Them surviv'd Her
Except a Daughter MERIELL, married to
HILDEBRAND IACOB Esq.
& SIR IOHN BLAND of Kippax Park and Hulme Bart.
Who erected This Monument in Memory of
One of the best of Women, Anno 1736.

Surmounting the inscription is a lozenge bearing the arms of Bland, — Ar. on a bend sa. three pheons of the field, in chief the badge of Ulster, — impaling quarterly for Mosley, 1 and 4 sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg. : 2 and 3, or, a fess between three eagles displayed sa. — On an escutcheon of pretence sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg.

On the same wall, at the north side of the chancel window, is a monument to the memory of Sir John Bland : —

Near this
Monument is interred
the Body of Sr. John Bland
of Kippax Park in y^e County of York
Barrt. who died Oct^{br}. 25. 1715 Aged 52.
He married Ann the Daughter and sole
Heiress of Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme
near Manchester in this County Knight by
whom he had Issue nine Children viz. Jane,
Ann, Meriel, Elizabeth, Mosley y^e first son,
Mosley y^e second, John y^e third (who succeeded
his father in Honour and Estate) & Edward
the fourth; the other three died Infants and
were buried here, as was Frances another
Daughter, who died Aug^t the 31st. 1712 in y^e
17th year of her age.
Also John, son of Thomas Davison of Blak-
iston in y^e County of Durham Esq. by y^e aforesd.
Ann daughter to Sr. John Bland.

Memoriæ
Optimi Mariti et Patris dicta Anna Vidua mœstissima
Hoc Monumentum
Posuit
Et Luctui et Cultui
Sacrum.

On the base of this same monument is inscribed: — “Near this Place also lye y^e Bodies of y^e abovenamed Sr. Edward Mosley Knight, and Meriel his wife; He was y^e second son of Oswald Mosley of Ancoats in this County, Esq. & died July 25. 1695 aged 77. And she was the Daughter of Richard Saltonstall late of Huntwick in y^e County of York Esq. & died July y^e 8. 1697 aged 63. In y^e same Place is also buried Sr. Edward Mosley of Houghend in this County Barrt. who married Katharine, Daughter of William Lord Gray of Wark & dyeing without Issue left his Estate to y^e aforesaid Sir Edward Mosley.”

In addition to the inscription is a shield charged with the arms of Bland, impaling those of Mosley.

A plain marble slab in the chancel bears the following :

S . M

of

Robert Fielden Esq.

many years a resident in this parish

& an active Magistrate of the Counties of Lancaster & Chester

who departed this life on the 6th day of September 1830,

aged 69 years.

Also of Ann his wife

eldest daughter of Sir John Parker Mosley

of Rolleston Park in the County of Stafford Bart.

who departed this life on the 27th day of March 1810,

aged 47 years.

Also Sarah his second wife who died on 23rd day of Jan^y 1850, aged 84.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord :

Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest
from their labours ; and their works do follow them.”

14 Chap. Rev. 13 ver.

Superadded to the inscription is a shield bearing the arms of Fielden : arg. on a fess azure three lozenges or, impaling (for Mosley) sa. a chevron between three mill-picks arg. Crest :. a blackbird sitting upon an oak slip acorned ppr.

Another monument commemorates a former incumbent of the chapel :

In memory of

the Reverend John Newton M.A.

Patron & Incumbent of this Church

where he officiated for more than 15 years

and was beloved by a numerous congregation.

He died September 16. 1807

in the 46th year of his age.

Also

Elizabeth Newton

Widow of the late Rev^d John Newton

who died March 23. 1832

in the 69th year of her age.

Also their Son

the Rev^d Joseph Newton M.A.

who died April 11th 1832

in the 36th year of his age.

On the north wall is a plain marble tablet thus inscribed :

Near this place

are interred the Remains of

JAMES BAYLEY of Gorton, who
departed this life June 10. 1778

aged 45 years.

Also ESTHER his Wife who

departed this life Dec^r 7. 1807

aged 80 years.

Near to the above is another tablet bearing a shield charged with the arms of Briarly (in colours), borne quarterly ; 1 and 4, or a cross potent gu. ; 2 and 3, azure on a chevron between three stags or, three roses (or cinquefoils) gu. ; impaling, arg. a chevron between three cross crosslets sa. Crest : a lamb and flag. Motto : Crux Coronæ Fulcrum. The slab is inscribed :

Near this place

lies interred the Remains

of Tho^s Briarly Gentⁿ

who departed

this life Sep^r 5. 1776

aged 63.

On the same wall is a large square tablet of white marble bearing the following inscription :

<p style="text-align: center;">Omnes una manet nox Et calcanda semel via lethi. Hor.</p>	
<p>Sacred to the Memory of Will^m Broome Gent. Whose remains were interr'd March 30. 1781. aged 68 Years. Also Elizabeth his wife interred Feb^y 6. 1764. James Broome their Second Son interred Aug^t 13. 1800 aged 42 years. John Broome their youngest Son interred Feb^y 18. 1787 aged 27 Years.</p>	<p>William Broome Esq. their eldest Son, one of his Majesty's justices of the Peace for this County ; he died sincerely regretted Aug^t 13th 1810 aged 55 years. Also the remains of Mary Broome relict of the above William Broome Esq. She died Jan^y 18. 1815 aged 59 Years.</p>
<p>—— Reader, whose eyes this marble view, Learn to be wise ; nor fleeting hopes pursue. Life is an ev'ning breeze, a murmuring breath, That blows till Sunset, then grows calm in death.</p>	

There is one other monument on the south wall to the memory of Elizabeth, only child of Thomas and Elizabeth Radford, who died May 7. 1833.

The chapel of Didsbury, as already stated, is the next most ancient ecclesiastical foundation in Manchester parish after the Collegiate Church, or Cathedral, as it is now called. It differed from all the other chapels in the parish, with *perhaps* the single exception of Newton, in having been from very early times invested with a certain independent jurisdiction, owning indeed subordination to the parent church of Manchester, but with a freedom from control not appertaining to the rest of the chapels, which were but chapels of ease,—a district being assigned to it in

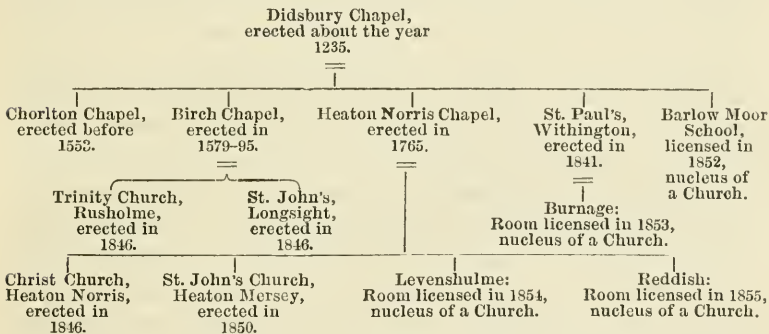
which the resident curate had exclusive authority ; being in fact, though a part of the parish of Manchester, a parochial chapel, or reputed parish of itself.

It is dedicated to St. James, as far as can now be ascertained, and is thus styled in the latest Faculty obtained for its restoration, though by the Rev. Canon Raines it has been committed to the guardianship of St. John. One argument in favour of the earlier supposition is founded on the fact that the village rush-bearing is held on the 5th of August, which answers to the 25th of July old style, or St. James's Day, and the wake is held the Sunday following and the two or three succeeding days, — a coincidence not accidental, but illustrative, of that close connexion which is found always to subsist between that annual festival and the patron saint's day, village wakes being the anniversary of the consecration of the church, night to which the wakes are held, the church itself uniformly receiving consecration on the day of the saint to whom it was dedicated. If this conjecture be well-founded, it is not a little remarkable that three other of the more ancient chapels in Manchester parish are dedicated to the same saint, namely Birch, Gorton and Denton.

Its subordination to Manchester Church is shewn in the payment of tithe to the Warden and Fellows as rectors of the entire parish. In 1701 the tithes of Didsbury township were leased by the Warden and Fellows to Mr. Thomas Wood for the sum of £33 10s. per annum. Withington and Burnage, in the chapelry district, are classed together, and the tithes from the two townships, leased to Mr. W. Birch, produced to the Warden and Fellows in that year £32 ; the tithes of Heaton Norris (in part within the chapelry limits) were leased to Mr. H. Hulme for £50 per annum ; — making a total of £115 10s. In 1848 the rent-charge payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester in lieu of tithes over the same area was, — Didsbury, £149 (besides 17s. 3d. payable to the Rev. R. M. Mosley the impropiator) ; Burnage, £72 10s. ; Withington, £115 (and £20 9s. to the impropiator) ; and Heaton Norris, £286 10s. ; — in all, £644 6s. 3d.

In 1573 injunctions were given to the Warden of Manchester by the Archbishop of York and the Queen's Commissioners for causes ecclesiastical within the province of York, respecting the more strict residence of the Warden and Fellows and diligent and constant preaching every Sunday in the church of Manchester, or in one of the chapels of Stretford, Chorlton, Didsbury, Gorton, Denton, Newton or Blackley.¹

The more ancient limits of the district assigned to the chapel were doubtless of wide extent, embracing the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, part of Heaton Norris, Rusholme and Chorlton; and it is interesting to trace the gradual development of the parochial system in Didsbury, as shewn by the repeated subdivisions into which that extensive district has been partitioned in order to meet the requirements of a gradually increasing population. Didsbury Chapel is venerable not only from its antiquity but also as the progenitor of descendants so many in number and so prosperous :



The population within the limits of the parochial chapelry, numbering in 1704 about 540 souls, now exceeds 19,000.

In 1650 an Inquisition was taken at Manchester before certain Commissioners under the great seal of England. The object contemplated by the commission was the readjustment of ecclesi-

¹ Hollingworth's *Chronicles of Manchester*, p. 83.

astical districts. It was recommended that Heaton Norris having no parsonage or vicarage, nor any spiritual benefice, and being seven miles distant from the Parish Church of Manchester, should be severed from Didsbury and united with Reddish, and that these two should be formed into a separate parish, and that a church should be erected for their accommodation: this was not then carried into effect. The Commissioners assert moreover that "in the township of Wythington are the four chapels of Diddesbury, Birch, Chorleton and Denton, which chapels are fit to be made a distinct parish;"¹—in this assertion they are so far incorrect as to confound the word *township* with *manor*; not one of the four chapels indicated is within the limits of the township, though all situated within the manor of Withington.

The erection of the chapels of Chorlton and Birch, the latter in the reign of Elizabeth and the former some years earlier, had diminished considerably the extent of territory over which Didsbury Chapel and its resident Curate exercised jurisdiction; though perhaps of Birch it may be affirmed that it was never more than a private chapel appended to the hall of that name.

In 1658 the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, and part of Heaton Norris, comprised the whole district included within the limits of the parochial chapelry of Didsbury, which disposition continued unchanged till the year 1765, when the suggestion of the parliamentary commission of 1650 was acted on, and Heaton Norris severed from Didsbury. No further alteration took place for nearly a hundred years. In 1841 the severance of Withington and Burnage was effected, when Didsbury township alone remained of the once far-spreading ecclesiastical district appertaining to this ancient chapel.

The present boundaries are as follows: A line commencing at the eastern end of Fog Lane and proceeding westerly along the middle of that lane as far as the road leading to Manchester from Didsbury, crossing over the road into Lapwing Hall Lane and proceeding up the middle of Lapwing Hall Lane as far as Burton

¹ *Lamb. MSS.* fo. 196.

Farm Lane; thence southerly along the middle of that lane to the boundary of the township of Didsbury; thence following westerly the boundary-line separating the township of Didsbury from the township of Withington until they reach the township of Chorlton-cum-Hardy; thence proceeding in a southerly and westerly, again southerly and easterly direction, along the boundary-line separating the township of Didsbury from the township of Chorlton-cum-Hardy to the point where they meet the boundary-line of the parish of Northenden, Cheshire; thence continued along the boundary of the township of Didsbury and the said parish of Northenden until it meets the township of Heaton Norris; thence northerly as far as the township of Burnage at Fog Lane, where the said line commenced, including the two detached portions of Burnage which lie one to the east and one to the west of Burnage Lane and south of Fog Lane.

In 1850 Didsbury was returned as a district chapelry under 59 George III. cap. 134. The chapel was stated to contain five hundred sittings, three hundred and eighty of which were appropriated and one hundred and twenty free.

It seems probable that at no distant time a further abridgment of the ancient chapelry limits will be made. The schoolroom at Barlow Moor has been licensed for divine service, and it is expected that a church will ultimately be built.

The earliest approach towards an endowment fund for Didsbury Chapel we find at the close of the sixteenth century. It consisted of "stock" contributed at different periods and by different individuals, the interest of which was applied to the support of a curate, and though of small amount this constituted the only fixed and settled income of the resident minister, aided perhaps at times, as exigency might suggest, by voluntary offerings on the part of the inhabitants. In 1613 John Twyford the chapelwarden and Robert Brooke deposed that for the years 1610 and 1611 it was "agreed by the consent of the better sort of the inhabitants of the Chapelry, that Mr. Rycroft should have £17 a year for his wages in serving that cure, to be gathered amongst the inhabitants and

made out of the stock of the chapel, to be gathered and payed to the churchwardens, besides his provender oats." But small as was this settled endowment, it was rendered scarcely less precarious than the voluntary offerings which occasionally served to augment it, by reason of the bad faith of those to whom the money had been lent; for in the year 1652 there was a formal presentment made of all "such persons as have in their hands sums of money paid towards the maintenance of a preaching minister at Didsbury, for which they do neither pay the interest nor renew the securities, though they have been called upon by us (the chapelwardens) thereunto." This list includes the names of no fewer than fourteen persons who had out at interest chapel-stock in sums varying from ten shillings to ten pounds, and for which they were rendering no acknowledgment to the curate or chapelwardens.

The p'sentment of the Wardens of Didsburye of such p'sons as have in their hands such sōmes of money as have been p'sons, lost, towards the maintenance of a preaching minister at Didsbury, for w^{ch} they doe neither paye the interest nor renew the securities thoe they have been called uppon by us thereunto.

Imprimis

1. John Blomcley alias Bancks, hath in his hand thirtie shillings, for w^{ch} wee know not when hee payd any interest. Edward Blomeley of Didsbury is bound wth him for the

2. Item. Laurence Walker of Didsburie gent. hath in his hand fiftie shillings, the interest whereof hee hath not payd many yeares, ffor w^{ch} James Birch th'elder of Little-heath and Edward Chorleton th'elder of Milgate in Didsburie is bounde wth him.
3. Itm. Alexander Walker th'elder of Didsburie hath in his hands fiftie shillings, the interest whereof hee hath not payd many yeares, neither will renew his securities, his form^r securitie being dead, viz^t George Chorleton of Eaton Norris.

4. Itm. Thomas Holme of Didsburie hath in his hands thirtie shillings, for w^{ch} hee hath not payd the interest for many yeares, nor doth give new securitie, his old suertie Thomas being dead.
5. Itm. William Whiteleg deceased of Ecehill in y^e county of Chester had in his hands shillings, noe interest hath been payd for the same dead, but his securitie William Blomeley ats
6. It. Edward Chorleton th'elder of the Mill in Didsburie hath in his hands for w^{ch} hee hath payd noe interest many yeares; his suretie was Na . . . Woode of Didsburie whoe is dead, his execut^r is Alexand^r Wood
7. It. An Moseley of Didsbury vid. Administrat^r of Edmund Moseley decesed hath in her hands tenne shillings, for w^{ch} noe interest payd many yeares.
8. It. Thomas Woode of Didsburie decesed had in his hand ten shillings; no body was bound wth him; his grandchild William Woode of Didsburie enjoys his liveing, but for ought wee knowe hee had neither execut^r nor administrat^r.
9. It. William Byrch of Lu^me decesed had in his hand twenty shillings, William Byrch of Burnag decesed was bound wth him; wee knowe not the execut^{rs} of either, onely wee are informed that William Byrch of the Lu^me and James Byrch his sonnes enjoyed what was their ffather's.
10. It. Mr. John Davenport sometyme [? minister] of Didsburye had in his hands ten pounds, for w^{ch} William of Didsbury decesed and Robert Birch of Didsbury yet alive were
11. It. Richard Byrch of the Tythe-barn in Wythington hath in his hands ten shillings, for w^{ch} noe interest hath been payd many yeares; his suretie William Chorleton of Didsburie is dead.
12. It. John Hampson of Eaton Norris and William Davie of Wythington had in their hands ffive pownes but

his wife is liveing and maryed to Alexander C . . . ; William Davie, as we understand, lives at

13. } There are twoe other bonds Shalercross and Thomas
 14. } It. Shalercross of 32^{li} . . . ; both dyed poore wthout adminis-
 trat^{rs}. Th'other from James Barlow whoe is dead, and
 whose Barlow deceased likewise; his executrix was
 his daughter Mary Barlow

R . . .

Frauncis Moseley
 Wardens of Didsburye.

Two years earlier, in 1650, the endowment was found to consist of a house and tenement for six years unexpired worth £10 per annum, and £48 in stock, the interest of which was available for the curate.

In 1606 Rowland Mosley of Hough End, Didsbury, Esq., eldest son of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., made a further provision for its endowment:—By an Indenture made the 12 day of August in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, that is to say of England, France and Ireland the fourth, and of Scotland the fortieth, between Rowland Mosley of the Hough within the county of Lancaster Esquire on the one part, and George Chorlton son of Edward Chorlton of the Hough End within the said county yeoman, John Heywood of Withington yeoman, Robert Walker son of Alexander Walker of Didsbury yeoman, Alexander Wood son of Alexander Wood of Didsbury yeoman, George Brooke son of Thomas Brooke of Heaton Wood Green yeoman, Robert Hughes son of Thomas Hughes of Didsbury yeoman, James Reddish of Fallowfield yeoman, and Richard Hampson of Heaton Wood Green yeoman, of the other part, — It was witnessed That the said Rowland Mosley for the considerations hereafter expressed had set to farm, let, and by these presents doth set and to farm let to them the said George Chorlton &c. and their assigns all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances in Didsbury aforesaid, lying, being and adjoining unto the chapel of Didsbury, now in the

tenure, holding or occupation of Thomas Pickering, together with all houses, buildings, orchards, gardens, fields &c., and all profits, easements and advantages to the said messuage belonging (the great timber standing on the premises only excepted), to have and to hold the said messuage &c. to them the said George Chorlton &c. for and during the whole term of four score years, the same to commence from and immediately after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering now tenant of the premises for the term of his natural life, to the uses, intents and purposes that they the said George Chorlton &c. shall and will convert and employ the said messuage and premises for the only good, profit, benefit and behoof of such parson, minister, vicar, curate or incumbent of the said chapel of Didsbury for the time being as shall remain, continue and be parson by and with the consent and good-liking of the said Rowland Mosley and his heirs, lords of the manor of Withington, and of them the said George Chorlton &c.: And also to the intent and purpose that during the time of vacation, cession and avoidance of the said vicar, minister and curate, or after the said dislike or dis-assent of the greater number of the persons before named of any such to be vicar, minister or curate there, then they the said persons shall stand possessed of the premises to the use of the successor that shall after be parson by and with the liking and consent of the greater number of the persons before named, to whom the said George Chorlton &c. shall be accountable at the oversight and view of the said Rowland Mosley, — yielding and paying therefor yearly nevertheless to the said Rowland Mosley and his heirs from and after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering, for and during the said term, the yearly rent of twelve pence, and also yielding and paying after the decease of the parson of the said chapel of Didsbury the best beast or good upon the premises for and in the name of a heriot. The deed next provides for the election of trustees as vacancies occur, the same to be nominated by Rowland Mosley Esq. and his heirs, lords of the manor of Withington. And it is likewise agreed for the consideration aforesaid by and among all the said persons to this present, and

by and with the full consent of all the residents of and in the said manor, of the said Rowland Mosley his heirs and assigns and all other that shall claim to be lords and owners of the said manor of Withington from and after the commencement of the said lease to begin and be in possession, that they and each of them shall be discharged of all and singular yearly payments of sums of money given or to be paid or given at any time after to the parson of the said chapel of Didsbury for the time being.

The deed is signed by the several trustees named, and their subscription witnessed by Nicholas Mosley, Rowland Mosley, Edward Chorlton, Richard Chorlton and George Chorlton.

Within six years of the execution of this deed Pickering sold his life-interest in the estate to Sir Nicholas Mosley, and leaving England with the intention of settling in Ireland was drowned, as it is believed, on the voyage; he was never more heard of. A question therefore arose, difficult of solution, as to the period at which the reversion of the tenement accrued to the chapel; and since nothing authentic was known of Pickering's death, and the transfer of the estate had been made contingent on that event, much difference of opinion prevailed as to the period also of its restitution to the family of Mosley. In 1695 Sir John Bland succeeded to the Mosley property, and about ten years afterwards he claimed Pickering's tenement as his own by reason of the determination of the eighty years specified in the lease. His claim was thought premature and was resisted, and a long correspondence ensued in which the Bishop of Chester (Gastrell) and Lady Ann Bland were involved. The result is not given, but the chapel does not appear to have derived any further benefit.

The first letter, dated "Didsbury, August 18th 1720," was written by the curate of the chapel, the Rev. Thomas Wright, and was addressed, "For the Rt. Rev. Father in God, Francis Lord Bishop of Chester." It is as follows: —

My Lord,

In obedience to your command I have here sent my testimonium signed by my neighbouring clergymen, who have known

my life and conversation ever since I was ordained, and I hope I shall always appear to your lordship to be the person I am there represented. According to your lordship's command I have all along taken Mr. Shrigley's advice. Upon my last return from Chester Mr. Shrigley advised me not to enter on Didsbury till my Lady Bland's passion was a little abated, whereupon I omitted for three Sundays. On Monday was sevensnight Mr. Broome, steward to the Lady Bland, told me that their counsel advised them not to shew your lordship any more writings, nor give any further account, and told me I might take the chapel with what little belonged to it, and that your lordship might shew for the land if you would have it. On Wednesday was sevensnight my Lady Bland told Mr. Birch of Birch that she had nothing at all to say against me; she bore me no ill-will, and for her part she could be as easy with me as any other person, and if I entered at Didsbury I should meet with no opposition from her; but withal she must assert her right as to the land. Mr. Shrigley being acquainted of these things, and having heard from your lordship that no satisfaction was given, he advised me to take possession of Didsbury, and accordingly I did on Sunday morning last, and had peaceable entrance; there shewed my license, and discharged my duty. I officiated in the morning at Didsbury, in the afternoon at Birch, and shall so proceed until I have directions from your lordship. As to the piece of ground called the Ogre, we have several evidences to prove it was in the Church. I have sent the deposition of one man only, who was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of Housend [Hough's End] nigh Didsbury, who gave this Ogre to the Church and gave his estate to the Lady Bland's father, who was a relation at some distance, and the Lady Bland's father took it from the Church again.

Deposition of Edward Worsley:—August 16, 1720. Then Edward Worsley of Withington declared, that when he was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of the Housend he often heard his master, Sir Edward, say that he had given the Ogre to the chapel of Didsbury, but never heard him mention that he had given it for any limitation

of time, but for ever; and he is ready to make oath of the same. Declared in the presence of Thomas Wright.

Mr. Broome has declared that my Lady has nothing at all to shew for the Ogre, and it is certain that she is at this time much afraid. This next is a copy of a receipt which Mr. Broome gave the tenant when he paid his rent for the church land after Sir John Bland had taken it from the Church: — “Dec. 4, 1710. Received of Titus Hulme ten pounds in full for rent of the church lands due to Sir John Bland at Michaelmas last, by me William Broom.” — I have several more dated before this, but worded after the same manner. I have nothing more material at present. I shall take all due care to observe your lordship’s commands in this affair, and whatever lies in the power of your lordship’s most obedient and dutiful son,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

The next letter is from the same to the same, written about two months later, dated “Didsbury, October 14, 1720,” and addressed to the Bishop “at Christ Church in Oxford.” It is as follows: —

My Lord,

With humble submission I beg leave to trouble your lordship again with our affairs at Didsbury. I have here sent my Lady Bland’s letter to me [this is not now with the correspondence] with a short account of some proceedings, that your lordship may see how I am treated by my Lady Bland, her steward, and her tenants. Her ladyship withholds her own contribution and has forbid all her tenants for contributing under pain of her displeasure, and by her steward Broome’s daily bullying them they dare neither contribute nor come to hear me, but some go to other churches and several to the meeting-houses. Some of my lady’s tenants were contributors to me at Birch, and those her steward has compelled to withdraw, and thereby have reduced our small contribution there several pounds; and they not only make their own tenants withdraw, but they bias and persuade as many other people as they can to withdraw too, and by their proceedings

they fully design to starve a poor clergyman from his duty, and by thus using all the curates that your lordship shall license hither they presently think to have the chapel again upon the same footing they had it before; in short, my lord, the base usage I daily meet with is not to be expressed. There are six or seven vile, carnal, drunken wretches that are Broome's creatures, and these men are constantly plotting how to be revenged on me and my family. They threaten to fling me into prison for scandalising the family with wronging the chapel of Didsbury, because I informed your lordship by the depositions of the people. I am told they design to draw up a petition to your lordship against me, full of base, scandalous reflections, aspersing me as a vile, irregular person. If they should I only desire I may be fairly heard before your lordship to answer for myself. If they can charge me with anything that is true I will fairly acknowledge it to your lordship, humbly submitting myself to your lordship's will and pleasure in every respect; but if it appear that they should falsely accuse me (as I doubt not but it will) I hope means may be used for their correction. If your lordship please to send to Mr. Bolton of Manchester he will give your lordship such a description and character of these fellows as will excite your lordship to pity me or any other poor clergyman who is sent amongst them. But what can I expect from them who speak so slightly of your lordship, for not long since Mr. Shrigley was discoursing with Mr. Broome about his and his companion's usage to me and the church, and telling him that your lordship would resent it as done in contempt to your lordship's authority; Broome made answer and cursed your lordship, saying you was but a man, what could you do? You could but excommunicate them. If those villains deal thus with your lordship, what must I expect? Mr. Dale, he comes a preacher at Chorlton church (after a mobbing way) to draw both my congregation after him, and by his fawning, insinuating ways, to take their affections off me to himself; there he comes and preaches without the consent of the fellows of Manchester, and (I presume) without your lordship's license. I have many more

things to relate, but shall forbear to detain your lordship any longer; but I being treated after this manner, and by their malicious proceedings my contribution at Birch is reduced to about £16 per annum; and all I am like to have from Didsbury is about £5 4s. per annum. My friends in Manchester advised me to preach three Sundays at Birch and one at Didsbury, but that I may know directly how to proceed in all these matters I most humbly beg your lordship will be pleased to send me directions in a letter. This (with submission) is the humble petition of

Your lordship's most obedient and dutiful son,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

If it please your lordship direct
for me at Didsbury.

The deposition alluded to in the foregoing letter was that of an old servant in the Mosley family, who had been butler to Sir Edward Mosley, and who remembered his frequently declaring that he had given the close of land called the Ogre for the use of the preaching minister for the time being at the chapel of Didsbury for ever. The following is the affidavit:—

Edward Worsley of Withington, in the county of Lancaster yeoman, 76 years of age or thereabout, maketh oath that he hath known the parochial chapel of Didsbury, in the said county of Lancaster, from his infancy; and further he maketh oath that he was butler to Sir Edward Mosley of Hough's End in the county of Lancaster fifty years ago and upwards, and at the time he this deponent was servant to the said Sir Edward Mosley he has heard the said Sir Edward Mosley frequently declare that he had given a close or parcel of land called the Ogre, lying and being in Didsbury aforesaid, for ever to and for the use of the preaching minister for the time being at and for the said chapel. And this deponent further maketh oath that he very well knew Mr. Walker, minister of Didsbury aforesaid, about thirty years ago to deponent's now remembrance, to enjoy the said close called the Ogre as he was minister of the said chapel for several years together. And this

deponent further maketh oath that several years after the death of the said Sir Edward Mosley, his relation or near friend Edward Mosley Esq. called Judge Mosley, took the said close called the Ogre from the said chapel; and the said judge or his family have enjoyed and received the profits of the said close, as the deponent has heard and verily believes.

EDWARD WORSLEY, his + mark.

After the lapse of three months Mr. Wright again addresses the Bishop on the subject. His letter is dated "Didsbury, January 10, 1720-21," and is superscribed "For the Right Rev. Father in God Francis Lord Bishop of Chester, in Westminster, London." It is as follows:—

My Lord,

Mr. Shrigley acquaints me that your lordship has received the counterpart of Piccorin's lease which belongs to Didsbury Chapel, together with some affidavits procured by Mr. Broome and Mr. Dale, in order to prove me a very ill man. I desire your lordship will take notice that upon the back of the lease there is an account of the time and place when and where this said Piccorin died in Ireland, written by Judge Mosley and attested by William Twyford; because I am informed they have a design to scratch it out. As to the affidavits I humbly desire your lordship will send me copies of them, that I may give in my answer upon oath. I am conscious of no ill things I have done among them, and I desire no other favour but that my case may be truly stated, and I may be fairly heard before your lordship. I was counted an honest man till I detected their dishonesty in the church, and since then I have been all that's bad. If your lordship please to remember when you demanded Lady Bland's reasons why she turned me away from Didsbury, there was no objections made nor no reasons nor answer could be given. If your honour please to review Lady Bland's letter which I enclosed to your lordship, she says if I would resign Didsbury I should have her favour; whereby it appears I was no very ill man. Mr. Broome and his cabal had basely abused

me behind my back, and at the visitation at Manchester I there several times challenged Mr. Broome and his company, if they had anything to object against me, there to declare it before Mr. Stratford, but no answer was given. My lord, I am persecuted and hunted like a partridge upon a mountain, yet I doubt not but when the truth appears, your honour will find these proceedings of Mr. Dale's and Mr. Broome's to be nothing but malice and roguery. And now my lady and her steward apprehend they shall be compelled to make restitution to the church through my informations, they are resolved, if possible, to be revenged on me that I may not enjoy what they must restore. Mr. Shrigley tells me Mr. Dale is very much in favour with Mr. Stratford, and that he has some reason to suspect Mr. Stratford's partiality in giving your honour an account of our proceedings at the visitation at Manchester. Mr. Stratford said he had silenced Mr. Dale by your lordship's order; but it proved nothing so; for he has preached ever since, sometimes at Chorlton Chapel, sometimes at Northen, which is but half a mile from me, and draws a many of my congregation after him. Mr. Broome read a clause in the lease which says that the curates of Didsbury should not enjoy the profits of that estate unless they came there by the consent of Rowland Mosley Esq. and his heirs. I proved before Mr. Stratford that the curates of Didsbury came in by their consent ever since they took the living from the church which was anno 1704, and therefore there are sixteen years arrears of rent due, which is £320. I there proved before Mr. Broome what indirect means he and his cabal had used to separate my congregation, with many other things; whether Mr. Stratford has informed your honour right I know not. I have proved (by depositions upon oath) the Ogre given to and enjoyed by the church, whereby it appears that the arrears of rent from that are above £300; so that they owe to the church above £600, besides Sir Edward Mosley's legacy for twenty-one years, which I can prove is not paid. What composition they may hope to make with your lordship I know not, but all the clergy and gentry cry shame of their proceedings. I shall not trouble your honour any

longer now, but humbly desire the copies of the affidavits that I may give in my answer; desiring nothing but to stand or fall by the justice of my cause. I shall take all care imaginable of the affairs here, and am (with humble submission)

Your lordship's most dutiful son and obedient servant,
THOMAS WRIGHT.

A month later we find Mr. Wright again addressing the Bishop, under the date "Didsbury, February 11, 1720-21," his lordship being still in London.

My Lord,

I received your kind letter, and according to your commands I have sent the depositions, being two of the chiefest evidences I have as yet, unless there was a commission to compel people to declare the truth by subpœnas. I design to take some more who can only remember the Ogre in possession of the church. On Saturday last I was with Mr. Shrigley, who, among public company, told me that the abstract which Mr. Broome gave your lordship was a false one, and further told me that he lately saw the counterpart of Piccorin's lease, and that somebody had altered a figure in the year of our Lord in order to make the lease expire before the time, and, among some writings which Mr. Broome shewed him, Mr. Shrigley said he discovered that which would be serviceable to my chapel. I took no notice then, but I hope your lordship will desire him to inform you what it was. I could save your honour the trouble, but I am dubious he will not give me that satisfaction which he dare not deny your lordship. I believe your lordship will think it necessary that Sir Edward Mosley's will of Hough's End should be searched for: he gave the Ogre to Didsbury in his life-time. I believe it will appear that the Ogre was in possession of the church before Sir Edward made his will; I believe his will is exemplified in chancery; he died in the year 1665. My Lady Bland and Mr. Broome still continue persecuting me, and this looks like the last piece of malice they are able to vent, viz., there is no house in or about the town for a

curate to dwell in but that which I now live in, which I rent from one of their lease-tenants; Broome has now sent for a writ of ejectment to fling the man off his tenement (pretending he has forfeited his land), with no other design (I am sure) but to plague me by turning my family and goods into the streets at an hour's warning; this is what I daily expect. Mr. Broome still browbeating the tenants from contributing, my necessity compels me to think of some other method for subsistence, and I have laid a little scheme, hoping your lordship will encourage my just endeavours, viz., whereas there are several legacies (in all £104) left to my chapel to be laid out for the best advantage of the curates of Didsbury for ever, the chapel-wardens being successive trustees, and whereas all the seats in the body of the chapel being forms, and those very old, ruinous and irregular, and having no place for a curate to dwell in, I most humbly request your lordship will grant us leave to pew the body of the chapel, regularly and uniformly, which a joiner (having viewed) tells me will not cost much above £60; and with the remainder of the money, with what I can beg to it, I humbly request we may build a little house for a curate to dwell in. The money being thus laid out, the seats upon an easy rent will amount to £18 per annum, besides the house; whereas several gentlemen about us have promised me to subscribe very handsomely towards raising the bounty-money, I desire your lordship will give orders that the congregation may choose their seats (when new pewed) as they will advance towards gaining the bounty; by this means I do not doubt of obtaining the bounty, and making the income worth £40 per annum, whereas it is now but poor £5 4s. per annum. One of my congregation designs to give four score pounds, which will be a good step towards the money. I hope your lordship will not let me slip so fair an opportunity of advancing my poor chapel. I have here sent a coarse plan of it; when your lordship considers the reasonableness of these my humble requests I hope you will grant my petition. I have related the matter to Mr. Bolton and Mr. Aynscough, who know how ruinous and irregular the seats are: they are very glad of the design, and

promise to assist me and the chapel-wardens in the affair the best they can, if your lordship think it proper. With humble submission, begging the favour of your lordship's answer in a post or two, which will infinitely oblige

Your lordship's most dutiful son and obedient servant,

THOMAS WRIGHT.

At this stage of the dispute Mr. Wright appears to have retired from the incumbency leaving the further agitation of the question to his successor the Rev. Francis Hooper, between whom and Lady Ann Bland a less hostile feeling seems to have existed. Mr. Hooper pursues the subject in a letter addressed to the Bishop "at the Parliament House, Westminster," dated "Manchester, May 24, 1721."

My Lord,

I received your lordship's commands to Mr. Shrigley to officiate at Didsbury till further orders from your lordship. I should not have given your lordship this trouble if (without it) I could have obeyed your commands; but Mr. Wright, the present incumbent refuses to leave this place without further orders from your lordship. He insists upon terms which the Lady Bland seems unwilling to comply with, till his future carriage and behaviour shews that he deserves them. I believe that he might promise himself more by trusting to her generosity than by making any demands, and it would be more for his interest to rely upon that rather than seem to distrust it. But however neither this nor the discouragement he meets with nor the uneasiness of his parishioners are motives strong enough to prevail upon him to leave it: I question not but your lordship's advice would outweigh them all. If it succeeds I shall faithfully obey your commands, and do what service I can amongst them till I receive fresh orders from your lordship. I did not know how far Mr. Shrigley's commission might extend, and was unwilling upon Mr. Wright's refusal, to take any step without your lordship's knowledge and approbation. I shall wait your commands and then faithfully

observe them, and be glad of any opportunity of shewing that I am

Your lordship's most dutiful and obedient servant,
FRANCIS HOOPER.

Ultimately the case was submitted by Lady Ann Bland to Mr. Fazakerley, an eminent counsel, for his opinion, which, on being received, was forwarded to the Bishop, through Mr. Hooper, July 3rd, 1722.

The case submitted for counsel's opinion was as follows : —

Thomas Pickering being seised of a messuage and land thereunto belonging in Didsbury in the County of Lancaster for his life, and the reversion thereof being to Rowland Mosley of the Hough in the said county Esq. The said Rowland by Indenture bearing date August 12, in the sixth year of the reign of King James I. [1608] did lease the said messuage and land to eight persons therein named for the term of eighty years, to commence immediately after the decease of the said Thomas Pickering, in trust that the said lessees and their assignees should during the said term of years occupy and enjoy the said messuage and land for the profit and benefit of the parson, minister, vicar, curate or incumbent of the chapel of Didsbury for the time being, so long as any such parson, &c. should continue and be parson, &c., by and with the consent and good-liking of the said Rowland and his heirs, lords of the manor of Withington, and of the said lessees or of the greater number of them; and upon this further trust that during the time of vacation, cession or avoidance of the said parson's, &c. place, or after the said dislike, or of the greater number of the persons before named, of any such to be parson, &c., that then the said lessees and their assignees should stand possessed of the premises for the benefit of the successor incumbent that should after be parson, &c. of the said chapel by and with the liking and consent of the greater number of the persons before named. In the 10th year of the said reign [1612-13] the said Thomas Pickering sold his said estate in the premises to Sir Nicholas Mosley of

the Hough Knight, and Rowland Mosley his son. Above twenty years ago the reversion of the said messuage and land came to the Lady Bland upon the death of Sir Edward Mosley her father; and upon the counterpart of the said lease now in her hands there is an endorsement written by the said Sir Edward Mosley in these words, viz.:—“This Thomas Pickering was baptized as by the register of Didsbury appears, May 9, 1586, and went out of England into Ireland about fifty years since as the clerk of Didsbury saith, and was not heard of since, as the clerk of Didsbury said this 9 of May 1680;” in witness of William Twyford; and there are several old men, some above, others near eighty years of age, who have lived all their time at and near Didsbury, who say that they never knew or saw the said Thomas Pickering, but have heard old people of that neighbourhood who are now dead say that they knew the said Thomas Pickering, and that he left Didsbury and went to Ireland many years before the time of the said old persons now living, and that the report was that he was drowned in his voyage; and the said old persons now living say that ever since they can remember, the minister of the said chapel had been in possession of the said messuage and land until about sixteen years ago, about which time the said Sir John Bland, having (as it is apprehended) good evidence that the said term of eighty years was then expired, did in right of the said lady his wife, enter into the said messuage and land and enjoy the same until his death, without interruption or claim; and since his decease, the said lady has continued in the like peaceable possession until now: That the Bishop of Chester having been informed that the said messuage and land were formerly in possession of the ministers of the said chapel, is very earnest with the said lady to deliver up the same. Query, — Whether the testimony of the said old people, as above, will not be evidence that the said term of eighty years is now expired, and if upon the circumstances of the case it will be advisable for the said Lady Bland to quit the possession of the said messuage and land?

Fazakerley's Opinion.

I am of opinion that under the circumstances of the case stated as above, it is reasonable to presume the term of eighty years is expired, especially since there has been uninterrupted enjoyment for sixteen years in opposition to the trust of the term; which, though it won't take away the right, supposing the term were subsisting, will be a very strong evidence of its expiration. As to the latter part of the question, now my Lady Bland has my opinion of the case, she will be more properly determined by her own discretion than anything I can say further; only this I may add, — that if the case be no otherwise than as it is above stated it won't be easy to get the possession from her unless she has a mind to quit it voluntarily.

NICHOLAS FAZAKERLEY.

This probably was deemed conclusive as far as regarded Pickering's tenement leased by Rowland Mosley Esq., since we hear of no further contention. With respect to the alleged gift of the Ogre meadow on the part of Sir Edward Mosley, there is neither evidence of its being given by Sir Edward nor yet of its being taken away by any of his successors. There is no allusion to it in his will, so that if given at all it must have been made over to the chapel in his life-time, but of this no proof could be found at the time when this question of alienation was mooted, nor has any since come to light.

In 1704 the annual value of the living was certified at £5 4s., being the interest of £104 left by several benefactors; it is stated that seventeen shillings per annum more is due, but doubtful. The voluntary contributions amounted to £10 per annum, making a total of £15 4s. Warden Wroe, who refers to it about three years later, gives a somewhat different account of its annual value. "It had," he says, "formerly a better endowment than at present; what is now left, with the subscriptions of the people, may amount to near 30^{li} per ann."

In 1726 the chapel received a further augmentation of £200

from Lady Ann Bland, which was met by a grant of corresponding amount from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.

In 1733 a wish was expressed through their secretary, that the £400 thus subscribed should be immediately invested in land, to which was added an intimation that it was the intention of the governors henceforth to cease from the further payment of interest on that sum, intending by this to expedite the purchase of land. The Rev. Robert Twyford, at that time curate, unable to meet with lands of the precise value, borrowed £250, and for the sum of £650 purchased an estate called Chamber, situated at Etchels in Cheshire, the interest on the £250 borrowed being paid out of the annual proceeds of the estate. The curate's income was thus reduced to £11 per annum, with such additional voluntary offerings as the inhabitants might be disposed to make. A subscription was consequently set on foot to raise a sufficient sum to entitle the chapel to a second bounty, so as to repay the loan and to free the chapel from debt. Amongst the contributors were the Bishop of Chester and many of the neighbouring clergy and gentry, but their aggregate contributions scarcely reached £10, a sum falling far short of the object contemplated.

In 1753 Mr. Richard Broome gave £200, which was met by a grant of £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty Fund, and the land previously purchased having been re-sold at the price for which it had been originally bought, there remained, after the repayment of the £250 borrowed, the sum of £800 for the endowment of the chapel.

In 1760 an estate at Flixton, consisting of a messuage and out-buildings, together with 10a. 3r. 25p. of land, large measure, was purchased for £800.

In 1792 the chapel was again augmented with £200 out of the Royal Bounty Fund.

In 1847 the sources of annual income were thus stated:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Glebe land at Flixton	79	0	0
2. Ecclesiastical Commissioners' grant, being in return			

for £600 paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1842 by the parishioners, who therewith re- deemed from chief 47 pews for free pews for ever.	34	0	0
3. Queen Anne's Bounty (grant of 1792)	6	10	0
4. Chief rents on pews in the galleries and chancel of the church, — average of three years	36	18	6
5. Chapelry dues for surplice fees, uncertain, — average for three years	46	6	6
6. Edward Hampson's trust money	1	0	0
Total	<hr/> £203 15 0 <hr/>		

In 1848 the glebe land at Flixton was sold to several persons for the sum of £2,141.

In 1850 a parsonage-house was built for the curates in perpetuity. It was erected on land (2250 square yards) the property of James Heald Esq. of Parr's Wood, to whom a yearly chief is payable of £14 ls. 4d. The total cost of its erection was £1,200, of which sum £500 was taken from the endowment fund of the chapel, £255 derived from local subscription, including £25 each from Mr. Phillips and Mr. F. A. Phillips, £15 each from Mrs. Birley, Mr. Herbert Birley, and Mr. Withington; and £20 from Wilbraham Egerton Esq. the lord of the manor; the remainder being contributed by the patron and his friends.

There is now in hand belonging to the chapel £2,009 2s. 1d. invested in the three per cent consolidated bank annuities, the dividends on which are paid to the incumbent.

Until the commencement of the last century there is every reason for believing that the patronage of the chapel was exclusively vested in the Warden and Fellows of Manchester. Of this we have no direct evidence, but its relation in various respects to the mother church strongly favours the assumption.

In 1726 it was alienated to Lady Anne Bland, who undertook to provide a more permanent and settled endowment for the curate, which with the assistance of the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty,

she effected, contributing £200 for this purpose. In this family it remained until the year 1775, when Ann Bland sold the advowson to William Broom of Didsbury Esq., whose heir-at-law William Broome Esq. re-sold it in 1792 to John Newton, gent. From this family it was conveyed by sale in 1829 to Mr. William Newall. In 1840 his son the Rev. Samuel Newall M.A. sold it to the late Thomas Darwell, Esq. father of James Darwell of Barton-upon-Irwell Esq. the present patron.

The name of Alexander "Capellanus de Didsbury" occurs in an undated deed relating to the Barlow family, wherein he, the said Alexander, conveys to Roger de Barlow the elder all his lands in Barlow, Chollerton, and Harday, in the manor of Withington.¹ This is the first curate of the chapel of whom anything is known. He would officiate at Didsbury sometime before the year 1290, and would consequently be amongst the earliest of the curates resident there. After him a long interval follows, in which nothing has survived of the ministers his successors, and but very scanty notices of the chapel itself. It must be remembered that whether as a private oratory, a chapel of ease, or even a parochial chapel, Didsbury Chapel possessed in the several stages of its development nothing of the importance of a parish church to ensure its early annals being placed on more permanent record; and it must also be borne in mind that the ministers in this and similar cures were at that time generally of inferior note, not unfrequently without ordination, and only exercising the clerical function in the absence of men better qualified, who had no alternative but to shrink from occupying a position so scantily providing for the wants of him who might have become responsible for the duties. Under the date 1576 the name of "Mr. Rider" occurs in the Chapel Register as minister of Didsbury. It is, however, evidently written by another hand, and at a subsequent period to that of the adjacent entries, and its authority seems doubtful.

In 1580 (May 12), as we learn from the same source, Ottiwell

¹ Harl. MS. 2112, fo. 172.

Baguley minister, was buried at Didsbury. He was succeeded by one Mr. John Waddin, who was "curate of Diddesburie" in 1585. His successor was Mr. Loydes, who in 1588 officiated as curate. In the following year we meet with the name of Richard Massye, and in 1604 with that of James Martindale, both of whom were resident there in the capacity of curate. These dates are not intended to fix the period of their several inductions, but only to identify the parties with the chapel at the times indicated. On the 11th of August 1605 the Rev. Thomas Rycroft was appointed minister. Mr. Rycroft was cited to appear before the bishop December 15, 1609, for non-conformity, having refused to wear the surplice whilst ministering. His scruples appear to have been overcome, for we find him still at Didsbury in 1612, in which year he was instituted to the rectory of Coddington in the county of Chester, on the presentation of the dean and chapter. His annual "wage" during the term of his holding the chapel of Didsbury was £17 "besyde his provender oats." He died in 1642 rector of Coddington, and letters of administration were granted to his widow Elizabeth. His inventory is dated December 14, 1642. On the resignation of Mr. Rycroft, the Rev. John Davenport was nominated to the chapel. He is found officiating there in 1619, in which year he attests by his signature the correctness of the annual transcripts of the chapel registers forwarded to Chester. He died at Didsbury, and was buried there March 18, 1638-9. His inventory is dated August 15, 1639; his goods and chattels are returned as of the value of £66 14s. 5d., including £17 15s. 4d. in books. John Davenporte clerk, second son of Sir William Davenporte of Bramhall, marries about this time Townshend, daughter of Richard Legh of Baguley Esq., but his identity with the curate of Didsbury of that name is not established. After the death of Mr. Davenport one Mr. Turner, who acted in the capacity of schoolmaster at Didsbury, is found exercising also the ministerial function there. His name occurs in the Chapel Registers within a month of the date of Mr. Davenport's death, and in 1642, as we learn from the same source, he officiated as minister at the

interment of Mr. Thomas Hebblethwaite, a royalist officer, slain at the siege of Manchester. It seems a little uncertain whether Mr. Turner was ever instated as curate, and there is even room for the further doubt whether he had at any time received ordination, examples not being wanting, at this unsettled period, of laymen discharging the clerical office when possessing sufficient education to undertake it. We subsequently find the name of Mr. Bradshaw, who is styled "minister of Didsburie," and who was either in immediate succession to Mr. Davenport, or followed after a brief tenure of office by Mr. Turner; he was interred at Didsbury February 9, 1645-6, retaining the curacy up to the time of his death. In one of the Act Books of the Diocese of Chester is a record of a marriage license granted to "John Bradshaw clerk and Elizabeth Comberlache of Manchester parish," dated September 2, 1633. On the death of Mr. Bradshaw, the first appointment to the chapel was made under the Presbyterian form of church government, which had then been recently established. The inhabitants of the chapelry with whom the nomination now rested, selected as their future pastor Mr. Thomas Clayton, and the Classical Assembly at Manchester proceeded to ordain him. From the minutes of that body, under the date April 14, 1647, the following memorandum is derived: Preparation unto Ordination, according to Ordinance of Parliament begun March 4, 1646; Mr. Thomas Clayton, aged about twenty-four years, Master of Arts of St. John's, brought certificate of his good conversation from Blackburn, where he was born; took the National Covenant before the Classis; desired and freely elected by the people of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster; was examined according to the Ordinance; an Instrument affixed on the church door of the said congregation, answer returned without exception; his question in divinity, "*An gratia Dei sit irresistibilis?*" approved, and the ordination fixed for the ensuing day. Mr. Clayton was accordingly ordained in Manchester church along with six others, the day being declared a fast-day for the purpose. Mr. Walker preached, and after a public confession of their faith the candidates were ordained by the imposi-

tion of hands. Letters of Orders were given to each of them; Mr. Clayton's commission was as follows: — "Whereas, Mr. Thomas Clayton, M^r of Artes, aged about 28 yeares, hath addressed himself to us authorised by ordinance of both Houses of Parliament of y^e 26 of August 1646 for the ordination of ministers, desiring to be ordayned a Presbyter, for y^t hee is chosen and appointed for y^e work of y^e ministry in y^e Church of Didsbury in y^e com. of Lancaster, as by a certifi^c. now remaining with us touching y^t his election and appointment appeareth, — and hee having likewise taken y^e Nationall Covenant before us and exhibited a sufficient Testimoniall of his diligence and proficiency in his studyes and unblamibleness of life and conversation; — He hath beene examined according to y^e Rules for examination in y^e s^d ordinance expressed and thereupon approv'd; and there having been noe just exception made ag^{tt} his ordination and admission; — These may testify to all whom it may concern, That upon y^e 15th day of this month of April we have proceeded solemnly to sett him apart to y^e office of a Presbyter and work of y^e ministry of y^e gospel by y^e laying on of our hands, by fasting and prayer, by virtue whereof we doe declare him to be a lawful and sufficiently authorised minister of Jesus Christ; — and having good evidence of his lawful and fayre calling not only to y^e work of the ministry but to y^e exercise thereof in y^e Church of Didsbury in y^e com. aforesaid, Wee doe hereby send him thither and actually admit him to y^e said charge to performe all y^e offices and duties of a faithful Pastor there, exhorting y^e people in y^e name of Jesus Christ willingly to receive and acknowledge him as the minister of Christ, and to maintain and encourage him in y^e execution of his office that he may be able to give up such an account to Christ of their obedience to his ministry as may bee to him joy and their everlasting comfort. In witness whereof wee the Presbyters of y^e first Classis in the county of Lancaster have hereto sett our hands this fiftenth day of April anno Dom̃ 1647.

RICHARD HEYRICK
EDWARD WOOLMER

JOHN HARISON
WILLIAM WALKER

TOBIE FURNACE.

Simultaneously with the admission into orders of Mr. Clayton arose an effort on the part of the inhabitants to make suitable provision for his support. A meeting of the people was called to effect this, and the following resolutions were agreed to; the document bears no date:—

Wee whose names are subscribed (beinge inhabitants wthin the parish or parochiall chapelr^ye of Didsbur^ye in the county palatyn^e of Lancaster) unanimously assenting^e to and approving^e of the admission and ability^e of Mr. Thomas Clayton now minister there; and willing^e and desiring^e him to continue the execu^cō of his function there; and considring^e that the meanes designed to the said church is not competent for the mainten^unce of soe deserving^e a man, whom (alwayes wth the favor and assent of S^r Edward Mosley baronett alre^ye graunted) wee desire to continue and bee confirmed in the said office; and though wee have hope that ere longe there may bee a convenient augmenta^cō obtained ffor the mainten^unce of o^r said minister, yett, for a more & settled recompence of his most approved industrie wee have thought fitt and doe hereby iointlye & se^vallie (as a by lawe for the publike good) order and agree in manner & forme followinge:—

Imprimis, That the said Mr. Clayton shall not onely for the yeare alre^ye past w^{ch} hee hath served here, have & receive soe much as to make up what hee hath had x^{li}, but alsoe shall (duringe his abode wth us & officiating^e) hereafter and untill soe much mainten^unce bee oth^rwise obteyned & settled, have and receive the full some of ffortye pounds p annū quarterlye, at Michaelmas, Christmas, the Annuncia^cō, & Midsom^r (to witt wth the mesuage & tenement hereaft^r men^cōned as after apeares) to bee paid equallie & respectivel^ye, the first paym^t to begin at Michas next ensueinge.

Item. That the mesuage and tenem^t assigned to the use of the minist^r of the said church, for the tyme beinge, shall bee valued and acompted at the rate of tenne pounds p annū (towards the said x^{li} p annū) considring^e the tymes, & that Mr. Clayton is a single man & soe cannot husband it to advantage.

Item. Whereas there is a stocke of money belonging to the said Church, w^{ch}, or the interest or use thereof we cannot account as assured (it remayninge in many hands) wee freelye remitt & give (as an overplus or addi^cō above the said xliⁱ p annū) to the said Mr. Clayton the interest or use of the same stocke from the tyme of his cominge to us duringe his abode in his said place, soe farre as in us lyeth.

Item. Wee order & agree that Thirtye pounds p annū of lawfull money shalbee assessed, taxed & apportioned equallie & indifferentlye upon us & other the inhabitants of the said Chapellrye, from tyme to tyme, (ffor the makinge up of the said ten pounds to xliⁱ a yeare as aforesaid), and that the same shalbee assessed, taxed & laid by Edward Chorlton and George Jackson of houghend, William Barlow of Didsburye, William Langford of Wythington, Richard Chorlton and James Birch of Littleheath, Thomas Hughes & Nicholas Holt of Didsburye, Edmund Chorlton of Wythington, John Birch of Burnage, Thomas Williamson and Edward Norris of Heaton Norris, Nicholas Wood and Edward Linney of Didsburye, or the greater number of them, as they or the greater number of them shall in conscience thinke fitt and indifferent, having regard to both personall & reall estates; and the same first assessm^t to stand as a constant rule.

Item. That such assessm^t, taxe & appor^cōnm^t shalbee speedilye made and ingrossed perfectlye in parchm^t (togethr^r wth this order) and that two parts bee thereof made whereof th'one to remaine wth the said Mr. Clayton and th'other wth the said assessors or some of them, and evie one soe assessed shall pay or bee lyable to pay his propor^cō soe assessed at the tymes aforesaid.

Item. Wee order & agree (by the co^mōn assent aforesaid) that if wee or any of us or any other so assessed as aforesaid shall or doe make default of paim^t of our or any of our propor^cōs, so^me or so^mes of money (soe as aforesaid to bee upon us or any of us or them assessed & taxed) at the se^vall & respective dayes and tymes aforesaid and by the space of ten dayes after any of the fleasts or dayes aforesaid respectivelye & soe from tyme to tyme, That then

& from thenceforth it shall & may bee lawfull to & for the said Mr. Clayton, or the assessors aforesaid or the greater part of them or theire or any of theire assignes, agents, servants by theire or any of theire apointm^t to distreine upon the goods or cattells of such p^{er}son or p^{er}sons makinge default wheresoev^r or howsoever, and the distresses soe taken to sell or dispose of at any time aft^r two dayes (if the parties full dues & arreres bee not before that tyme paid) rendring the overplus to the party; And alsoe that it shall & may bee lawfull to the said Mr. Clayton to sue at law in any Court or Courtes (for the said assessm^{ts} & the arreres thereof) the parties makinge default, in his owne name or in the name or names of the said assessors or the great^r part of them, to his onely use.

Item. That this order and agreem^t bee speedilye putt into execu^{ti}on wth effect; And that the same continue in full force (as a by lawe or publique ordinance) untill the said Mr. Clayton shall otherwise have established and setled upon him to the value of xliⁱ p^{er} annū or above, for the execu^{ti}on of the cure at the Church of Didsburye aforesaid w^{ch} hee p^{ro}miseth and wee well hope hee will p^{er}forme.

The new form of Church-government does not appear to have worked well in Didsbury. Much difficulty arose in persuading the elders to act in that capacity, and in June 1648 Mr. Angier, Mr. Clayton and others were deputed to see if they could induce them to accept their office. Mr. Clayton's own views seem to have been somewhat unsettled, absenting himself from the meetings of the Classis as though unwilling to identify himself too closely with its members, and then excusing himself for his non-attendance by pretexts so vague as to be admitted only on promise of future amendment, until at length on March 11, 1650-1, it was announced at their monthly meeting that "Mr. Clayton minister at Didsburie did withdraw from the Classis and departed out of y^e Classis without anie order from the Classis."

The defection of Mr. Clayton rendered necessary the appoint-

ment of another minister, and the choice of the inhabitants fell on the Rev. Peter Ledsame, who proved scarcely less intractable than was his predecessor. On the 14th of December 1652, it was ordered that Mr. Angier and Mr. Hyde should speak to Mr. Ledsame of Didsbury concerning his presence at the Classis and erecting of the government, and should make report at the next Classical meeting. The result of this expostulation was communicated to the assembly Janury 11, 1653-4. Mr. Ledsame promised future appearance, excusing his present irregularity by the plea of necessary business; but when at their next meeting February 14, he was still absent, a summons was ordered to be issued compelling him to appear. In 1661 he was instituted rector of Wilmslow in the county of Chester, on the presentation of Sir Cecil Trafford, which he resigned in 1673, and dying July 22, 1678, was buried at Wilmslow. Of Mr. Ledsame's successor nothing has reached us; whoever he may have been it is presumed that he conformed in 1662, since we have no tidings of the ejection of a curate from Didsbury on the passing of the Act of Uniformity. In 1664 Didsbury was declared to be without a curate, the Registers of the Chapel announcing under the date February 10, 1664-5, that certain children belonging to Withington were christened at Chorlton, there "being noe minister at Didsbury." Other entries, seemingly at variance with this, intimate that the Rev. James Jackson was curate there. In September 1658 Mary, the daughter of "James Jackson minister" (of what cure is not stated) was buried at Didsbury; and later, in July 1666, "Elin the daughter of James Jackson minister" was likewise interred, — leading to the inference that Mr. Jackson may possibly have been Mr. Ledsame's immediate successor, and that the absence of a minister announced in 1664 may have arisen from some temporary cause not affecting his continuance there, the duration of that absence not extending beyond a single day. Mr. Jackson was, however, during these same years curate of the neighbouring chapel of Chorlton, and the only mode of reconciling these apparently contradictory statements is to suppose that he held both chapels as the custom then not unfre-

quently was, in the case of benefices scantily endowed. In 1667 the chapel was unsupplied, and a caveat was entered by Joseph Maynard Esq. against the licensing of a curate. Mr. Maynard was brother-in-law of Sir Edward Mosley Bart., then recently deceased, whose will was under litigation; and it is inferred that as claimant under the deceased baronet's will he was desirous that his asserted right of concurrence in the appointment of minister (upon which concurrence the payment of certain sums left by his wife's family in augmentation of the minister's income had been made conditional) might not be prejudiced. In 1678 the Rev. John Walker was found exercising the function of curate; he held the curacy till 1685. He was a graduate of Magdalene College, Cambridge, M.A. 1669. His successor was the Rev. Peter Shaw, who at the time of his appointment was curate of Stretford Chapel. Mr. Shaw continued at Didsbury for some years; his name is met with in the Chapel Registers in 1699. In the following year he resigned the cure. In 1704 (June 7) the Rev. Joshua Wakefield B.A. of Queen's College, Cambridge (B.A. 1695, M.A. 1699) was nominated to Didsbury by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester, his nomination being signed by Richard Wroc, Warden; Roger Bolton and Robert Assheton, Fellows; — but though receiving in 1704 his formal appointment, he was officiating as curate at Didsbury four years earlier, his signature as minister being attached to the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1700. He was therefore Mr. Shaw's immediate successor. His stay was but short, for we find one Joshua Wakefield, probably the same individual, instituted December 9, 1705, to the rectory of Wilmslow on the presentation of John Harrison. In 1706 Roger Bolton signs his name as "Curate" at the annual auditing of the churchwardens' accounts of the preceding year. It seems not improbable that Mr. Bolton was the Fellow of Manchester Collegiate Church of that name. He was succeeded in 1709 by the Rev. David Dawson, who was found officiating as curate in that year, and subsequently also in 1715. Mr. Dawson was of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1706. In 1716 the Rev. James Leicester B.A.

of St. John's College, Cambridge, was minister of the chapel; the date of his nomination is not recorded. He was also Librarian of the Chetham Library in Manchester, to which he had been appointed in 1712 on the resignation of the Rev. Nathaniel Banne. He died at Didsbury, and was buried there September 5, 1718. The next curate whose name has reached us is the Rev. Thomas Wright B.A., nominated July 11, 1720, by the Warden and Fellows; his nomination is signed by Thomas Hall, Roger Bolton, and Robert Assheton, Fellows. There had doubtless been an intermediate nomination following more closely the death of Mr. Leicester, but the name of the curate is unknown. Mr. Wright appears to have been a man of a litigious spirit, as his correspondence, elsewhere given, with Bishop Gastrell will serve to show. From the commencement of his ministration at Didsbury he was unfortunate, beginning as his career did with an humble submission to his diocesan for previous informal practices now first objected against him. The document is short, and explains itself:—"Forasmuch as I Thomas Wright, clerk, did perform the service of the Church of England and preach at Winnington Hall without the license of the Right Reverend Father in God Francis Lord Bishop of Chester, I do hereby acknowledge that my offence, and am heartily sorry I did anything to incur the displeasure of my honourable diocesan; but forasmuch as it was not done in contempt, but through ignorance on one hand and the necessitous obligations I lay under on the other, I therefore hope your lordship will pardon me, who from henceforth promise to be your lordship's most obedient dutiful son."—His stay at Didsbury was under two years. He failed to conciliate the people, and was probably starved into a resignation of the living. He held also the chapel of Birch, to which as well as to Didsbury he had been nominated July 11, 1720. He resigned both chapels the same day, January 10, 1721-2, and was succeeded by the Rev. Francis Hooper M.A. (B.A. 1716, M.A. 1720), Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, at that time Librarian also of the Chetham Library, Manchester, in succession to Mr. Leicester. He resigned the two appointments

after having held them for about five years. On the 15th September 1726, the Rev. Robert Twyford B.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford, was nominated to the chapel by the Lady Anne Bland, to whom the patronage had been recently alienated. Mr. Twyford was a native of Didsbury, the son of Mr. Robert Twyford, descended from a royalist family of respectable connexions in the township; he was born in 1690. For the two or three last years of his life he held the adjacent chapel of Birch in conjunction with that of Didsbury; he died at Didsbury, and was buried there March 2, 1746-7. On the 15th day of May following, the Rev. William Twyford B.A. of St. John's College, Cambridge, was nominated by Sir John Bland Bart. to succeed his father, the late curate. He had been already licensed (March 17) to Birch Chapel, but this he resigned in 1752. He held Didsbury for nearly fifty years, and dying in 1795 was succeeded by the Rev. John Newton M.A. of Queen's College, Cambridge, who was nominated July 28, 1795, by John Newton gent. Mr. Newton held the chapel until his death, which occurred September 16, 1807. He was buried at Didsbury. On the 3rd of November 1807, the Rev. John Gatliff M.A. succeeded on the death of Mr. Newton. His nomination was under the hand of the Rev. Henry Brown, "who had purchased the presentation during the life of the late incumbent, but had it not in his power at present to hold it." In 1792 Mr. Gatliff was elected clerk in orders of the Collegiate Church, Manchester, on the death of the Rev. John Everard Upton, who was killed by a fall from his horse after holding the office for the brief space of six weeks; and on the decease of the Rev. Dr. Griffiths was appointed to succeed him March 19, 1798, as Fellow of the Collegiate Church. He became rector of St. Mary's, Manchester, in 1804, and died November 22, 1843, aged eighty, having three years previously resigned the Chapel of Didsbury. He was succeeded by the Rev. William John Kidd, Incumbent of St. Matthew's, Manchester, who received his nomination to Didsbury from Thomas Darwell of Manchester Esq. December 30, 1840, and is the present incumbent.

The following is a list of the Curates of Didsbury, as far as their names can now be recovered:—

1576.	—— Rider.	1678, 1685.	John Walker.
—1580.	Ottiwell Baguley.	1685–1700.	Peter Shaw.
1585.	John Waddin.	1700–1705.	Joshua Wakefield.
1588.	—— Loydes.	1705–1709.	Roger Bolton.
1589.	Richard Massye.	1709–1716.	David Dawson.
1604.	James Martindale.	1716–1718.	James Leicester.
1605–1612.	Thomas Rycroft.	1720–1721.	Thomas Wright.
1619, 1638.	John Davenport.	1721–1726.	Francis Hooper.
1638—	—— Turner.	1726–1746.	Robert Twyford.
—1646.	John Bradshaw.	1746–1795.	William Twyford.
1647–1650.	Thomas Clayton.	1795–1807.	John Newton.
1650–1661.	Peter Ledsame.	1807–1840.	John Gatliff.
1664.	No curate.	1840.	William John Kidd.

The Registers of the Chapel commence in the year 1561, and are for the most part in good preservation. The arrangement of baptisms, marriages and burials, under separate heads, is more methodical than often happens. In the earliest volume the first page, consisting of entries of marriages from 1561 to 1570, is all but illegible, the soiled condition of the parchment rendering the writing indistinct; but in other respects the earlier entries are more carefully made than those of a later date.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1561 ...	28 ...	want- ing ...	0 ¹	1570 { imper- fect 6 }	13 ...	1	
1562 ...	25 ...	18 ...	0	1571 ...	31 ...	22 ...	6
1563 ...	want- ing ...	18 ...	0	1572 ...	29 ...	12 ...	5
1564 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1573 { imper- fect 4 }	25 ...	9	
1565 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1574 { imper- fect 2 }	11 ...	1	
1566 ...	35 ...	26 ...	0	1575 ...	22 ...	28 ...	9
1567 ...	31 ...	23 ...	0				
1568 ...	30 ...	27 ...	0				
1569 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0				

¹ Illegible from 1561 to 1570.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1576 ...	38 ..	27 ..	7	1608 ...	33 ...	27 ...	1
1577 ...	want- ing ...	32 ...	11	1609 ...	30 ...	24 ...	3
1578 ...	38 ...	31 ...	14	1610 ...	30 ...	28 ...	2
1579 ...	18 ...	16 ...	7	1611 ...	30 ...	40 ...	3
1580 ...	35 ...	39 ...	10	1612 ...	16 ...	28 ...	1
1581 ...	26 ...	23 ..	6	1613 ...	20 ...	26 ...	1
1582 ...	29 ...	29 ..	4	1614 { imper- fect 2 }	want- ing ...	0	
1583 ...	32 ...	25 ...	3	1615 ...	30 { imper- fect 15 }	2	
1584 ...	35 ...	28 ...	5	1616 ...	34 ...	34 ...	0
1585 ...	39 ...	50 ...	4	1617 ...	29 ...	46 ...	1
1586 ...	21 ...	35 ...	9	1618 ...	29 ...	22 ...	0
1587 ...	23 ...	45 ...	3	1619 ...	32 ...	29 ...	5
1588 ...	13 ...	27 ...	0	1620 ...	35 ...	19 ...	3
1589 ...	25 ..	22 ...	3	1621 ...	39 ...	36 ...	0
1590 ...	31 ...	46 ..	12	1622 ...	29 ...	55 ...	7
1591 ...	39 ...	38 ...	6	1623 ...	28 ...	67 ...	1
1592 ...	43 ...	37 ...	5	1624 ...	36 ...	36 ...	0
1593 ..	47 ...	27 ...	5	1625 ...	35 ...	28 ...	1
1594 ...	48 ...	26 ...	8	1626 ...	39 ...	42 ...	2
1595 ...	39 ...	23 ...	4	1627 ...	36 ...	22 ...	0
1596 ...	44 ...	35 ...	5	1628 ...	37 ...	20 ...	5
1597 ..	37 ...	48 ...	2	1629 ...	42 ...	34 ...	2
1598 ...	30 ...	54 ...	3	1630 ...	47 ...	33 ...	0
1599 ...	48 ...	38 ...	6	1631 ...	33 ...	29 ...	0
1600 ...	42 ...	37 ...	7	1632 ...	44 ...	36 ...	4
1601 ...	30 ...	32 ...	1	1633 ...	38 ...	29 ...	7
1602 ...	24 ...	40 ...	2	1634 ..	44 ..	33 ...	2
1603 ...	35 { imper- fect 19 }	0		1635 ...	43 ...	50 ...	3
1604 { imper- fect 2 ... imper- fect 16 }	0			1636 ...	28 ...	27 ...	3
1605 ...	35 ...	44 ...	3	1637 ...	31 ...	47 ...	7
1606 ...	52 ...	40 ...	3	1638 ...	32 ...	44 ...	3
1607 ...	36 ...	30 ...	3	1639 ...	41 ...	42 ...	7

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1640 ...	31 ..	34 .	3	1670 ...	21 ...	38 ...	5
1641 ...	30 ...	17 ...	7	1671 ...	20 ...	39 ...	5
1642 ...	22 ...	29 ...	1	1672 ...	26 ...	45 ...	1
1643 { imper- fect 5 ...	imper- fect 8 ...		1	1673 ...	32 ...	28 ...	2
1644 ...	38 ...	56 ...	17	1674 ...	24 ...	42 ...	3
1645 ...	50 ...	36 ...	9	1675 ...	17 ...	40 ...	0
1646 ...	want- ing ...	want- ing ...	0	1676 ...	17 ...	38 ...	3
1647 ...	imper- fect ...	want- ing ...	1	1677 ...	24 ...	32 ...	2
1648 ...	imper- fect ...	want- ing ...	0	1678 ...	18 ...	31 ...	2
1649 ...	imper- fect { imper- fect 6 }		3	1679 ...	17 ...	29 ...	3
1650 { imper- fect 21 ...	imper- fect 4 ...		1	1680 ...	25 ...	41 ..	4
1651 { imper- fect 10 }		27 ...	1	1681 ...	17 ...	48 ...	1
1652 ..	31 ...	35 ...	1	1682 ...	26 ...	20 ...	1
1653 ...	18 ..	37 ...	2	1683 ...	21 ...	28 ...	5
1654 ...	23 ...	17 ...	0	1684 ...	21 ...	67 ...	1
1655 ...	29 ...	23 ..	3	1685 ...	22 ...	44 ...	3
1656 ...	32 ..	33 ...	0	1686 ...	24 ...	36 ...	2
1657 ..	16 ...	42 ...	0	1687 ...	10 ...	20 ...	1
1658 ...	15 ...	54 ..	2	1688 ...	15 ...	24 ...	8
1659 ...	19 ...	28 ...	4	1689 ...	23 ...	32 ...	4
1660 ...	19 ...	16 ...	2	1690 ...	18 ...	17 ...	4
1661 ..	22 ...	27 ...	0	1691 ..	17 ...	20 ...	1
1662 ...	17 ...	35 ...	2	1692 ..	18 ...	36 ...	5
1663 ...	29 ...	20 ...	4	1693 ...	11 ...	23 ...	4
1664 ...	27 ...	33 ...	2	1694 ...	13 ..	26 ...	1
1665 ...	19 ...	37 ..	1	1695 ...	17 ...	47 ...	2
1666 ...	22 ...	22 ...	3	1696 ...	21 ..	25 ...	1
1667 ..	24 ..	41 ...	2	1697 ...	16 ...	29 ..	0
1668 ...	27 ...	36 ...	4	1698 ...	11 ..	31 ...	1
1669 ...	25 ...	38 ..	5	1699 ...	12 ..	34 ...	1
				1700 ...	9 ...	34 ...	1
				1701 ...	19 ...	26 ...	1
				1702 ...	imper- fect ...	23 ...	0
				1703 ...	17 ...	20 ...	1

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1704 .	12 ...	25 ...	2	1737 ...	41 ...	25 ...	2
1705 ...	15 ...	20 ...	2	1738 ...	42 ...	18 ...	4
1706 ...	18 ...	25 ...	7	1739 ...	36 ...	24 ...	2
1707 ...	17 ...	32 ...	1	1740 ...	35 ...	61 ...	2
1708 ..	16 ...	31 ..	1	1741 ...	45 ...	32 ...	2
1709 ...	13 ...	28 ...	2	1742 ..	41 ...	42 ...	1
1710 ...	21 ...	18 ...	5	1743 ...	43 ...	16 ...	1
1711 ...	19 ...	23 ...	1	1744 ...	59 ...	18 ...	3
1712 ...	30 ...	33 ...	3	1745 ...	42 ...	27 ...	10
1713 ..	31 ...	21 ..	1	1746 ...	28 ...	34 ...	4
1714 ...	30 ...	27 ...	1	1747 ...	24 ...	38 ...	3
1715 ...	34 ...	36 ...	1	1748 ..	31 ...	15 ...	4
1716 ...	24 ...	27 ...	2	1749 ...	38 ...	20 ...	0
1717 ...	19 ...	35 ...	0	1750 ...	31 ...	23 ...	4
1718 ...	35 ...	22 ...	4	1751 ...	37 ...	21 ...	4
1719 ...	34 ...	28 ..	5	1752 ...	27 ...	12 ...	0 ¹
1720 ...	35 ...	21 ...	1	1753 ..	26 ...	34 ...	0
1721 ...	24 ...	42 ...	1	1754 ...	36 ...	32 ..	0
1722 ...	33 ...	41 ...	1	1755 ...	38 ..	35 ...	0
1723 ...	28 ...	24 ...	3	1756 ...	30 ...	59 ...	0
1724 ...	41 ...	36 ...	0	1757 ...	41 ...	21 ...	0
1725 ...	41 ..	38 ...	0	1758 ...	36 ...	22 ...	0
1726 ...	45 ...	55 ...	1	1759 ...	45 ...	30 ...	0
1727 ...	30 ...	78 ...	2	1760 ...	38 ...	37 ...	0
1728 ...	29 ..	97 ...	1	1761 ...	42 ...	37 ...	0
1729 ...	18 ...	91 ...	3	1762 ...	47 ...	32 ...	0
1730 ...	33 ...	56 ...	3	1763 ...	28 ...	29 ...	0
1731 ...	41 ...	42 ...	9	1764 ...	50 ...	51 ...	0
1732 ...	31 ...	41 ...	4	1765 ...	31 ...	30 ...	0
1733 ...	40 ...	18 ...	3	1766 ..	45 ...	34 ..	0
1734 ...	36 ...	28 ...	1	1767 ...	40 ...	37 ...	0
1735 ...	36 ...	44 ...	3	1768 ...	37 ...	39 ...	0
1736 ..	41 ...	36 ...	8	1769 ...	40 ...	31 ..	0

¹ From this date marriages cease at Didsbury, not being resumed until the year 1838.

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1770 ...	42 ...	74 ...	0	1804 ...	61 ...	53 ...	0
1771 ...	45 ...	43 ...	0	1805 ...	76 ..	70 ...	0
1772 ...	27 ...	57 ...	0	1806 ...	74 ...	62 ...	0
1773 ...	36 ...	25 ...	0	1807 ...	73 ...	80 ...	0
1774 ...	34 ...	35 ...	0	1808 ...	74 ...	83 ...	0
1775 ...	29 ...	30 ...	0	1809 ...	68 ...	69 ...	0
1776 ...	42 ...	60 ...	0	1810 ...	83 ...	99 ...	0
1777 ...	36 ...	40 ...	0	1811 ...	77 ...	52 ...	0
1778 ...	25 ...	43 ...	0	1812 ...	64 ...	71 ...	0
1779 ...	32 ..	67 ...	0	1813 ...	70 ...	78 ...	0
1780 ...	32 ...	49 ...	0	1814 ..	67 ...	101 ...	0
1781 ...	28 ...	60 ...	0	1815 ...	62 ...	99 ...	0
1782 ...	44 ...	54 ...	0	1816 ...	67 ...	106 ...	0
1783 ...	31 ...	53 ...	0	1817 ...	78 ...	88 ...	0
1784 ...	46 ..	38 ...	0	1818 ...	60 ...	102 ...	0
1785 ...	35 ...	52 ...	0	1819 ...	70 ...	74 ...	0
1786 ...	44 ..	52 ..	0	1820 ...	56 ...	69 ...	0
1787 ...	47 ...	56 ...	0	1821 ...	63 ...	91 ...	0
1788 ..	40 ...	48 ..	0	1822 ...	91 ...	77 ..	0
1789 ...	50 ...	70 ...	0	1823 ...	78 ...	103 ...	0
1790 ..	52 ...	54 ...	0	1824 ...	74 ...	85 ...	0
1791 ...	46 ...	60 ...	0	1825 ...	65 ...	80 ...	0
1792 ...	49 ...	73 ...	0	1826 ...	82 ...	136 ...	0
1793 ...	61 ...	58 ...	0	1827 ...	70 ...	80 ...	0
1794 ..	49 ..	67 ...	0	1828 ...	79 ...	95 ...	0
1795 ...	64 ...	66 ...	0	1829 ...	71 ...	87 ...	0
1796 ...	55 ...	83 ...	0	1830 ...	78 ...	104 ...	0
1797 ...	57 ...	48 ...	0	1831 ...	74 ...	126 ...	0
1798 ...	62 ...	67 ...	0	1832 ...	98 ...	102 ..	0
1799 ...	59 ...	74 ...	0	1833 ...	96 ...	85 ...	0
1800 ...	61 ...	73 ...	0	1834 ...	121 ...	119 ...	0
1801 ...	59 ...	72 ...	0	1835 ...	114 ...	114 ...	0
1802 ...	70 ...	82 ...	0	1836 ...	106 ...	126 ...	0
1803 ..	79 ...	75 ...	0	1837 ...	123 ...	114 ...	0

Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.	Year.	Bapt.	Bur.	Marr.
1838	...102	...120	... 34	1847	... 85	... 96	... 65
1839	...101	...109	... 47	1848	... 81	...105	... 84
1840	... 96	...114	... 44	1849	... 91	...106	... 80
1841	.. 86	... 80	... 43	1850	... 83	... 68	... 46
1842	... 74	... 91	... 37	1851	... 73	...103	... 28
1843	...107	...115	... 94	1852	... 81	... 84	... 11
1844	... 91	... 97	... 81	1853	... 59	... 86	... 10
1845	...100	... 92	... 89	1854	. 64	... 86	... 4
1846	... 89	...108	... 80	1855	. . 51	... 71	... 7

1562. March 26. Baptized ffiances, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1562. April 3. Buried Thomas Blomeley and hys wyffe, codem die.
1562. March 21. Buried uxor Mr. Holme.
1566. April 29. Baptized John, the sonne of a poore man.
1566. October 19. Baptized Nicholas, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1567. January 26. Baptized Alexander, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley esquier.
1569. October 17. Baptized Edward, the sonne of Nicholas Mosseley.
1578. September 24. Buried Elizabeth, the doughter of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1580. May 12. Buried Ottiwell Baguley minister.
1581. September 16. Baptized Margaret, the doughter of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1583. December 26. Buried Elizabeth, the wyffe of Alex^o Barlowe esquier.
1584. August 26. Buried Alexander Barlowe de Barlowe esquier.
1585. November 30. Baptized Edward, the sonne of Alex^o Barlowe gent.
1587. June 1. Baptized John, the sonne of Richarde Booth gent.

1588. Mr. Loydes beinge minister in the yeare 1588 regestered non in hys tyme.
1589. July 7. Buried John Downes alias Chorleton, ye sonne of John Chorleton clerke, in templo.
1589. July 21. Baptized Jane, the doughter of Alex^d Barlowe ar.
1590. December 21. Buried Rauffe, the sonne of Thomas Sorow-colde de Manchester.
1590. February 6. Baptized Thomas, the sonne of Robarte Brooke by Elizabeth Ryle alias Great besse.
1591. May 9. Buried Anne, the wyffe of Thomas Woodd clerke de Didisbury.¹
1593. February 8. Buried John, the sonne of Rowlande Mos-seley of the Houghend gen.
1595. December 25. Buried Edmound, the sonne of Alex^d Barlowe gen.
1596. October 24. Buried Anne, the doughter of R. [or K.] T. by I. Prestwich.
1597. January 26. Buried one Bexweeke a poore mañ, dyed at Edmoundes Barlowe.
1597. Ellin Rediche of ffallowfilde bare a womañ childe and it was buryed feb. 19.

¹ The office of parish clerk has been transmitted in one family from father to son for the long space of two hundred and fifty years, as appears from the registers and also from a grave-stone in the chapel-yard thus inscribed: "In commemoration of Thomas Wood clerk of this church, who was buried beneath this place: Ann his wife, buried May 9, 1591. Thomas Wood clerk above sixty years, buried October 20, 1651; Ann his wife, buried August 20, 1639. William Wood clerk thirty years, buried May 28, 1681, aged sixty-three years; Mary his wife, buried May 28, 1672. Thomas Wood clerk thirty-six years, buried October 6, 1717, aged sixty-seven years; Mary his wife, aged ninety-two years, buried February 10, 1744. Thomas Wood clerk thirty years, buried January 2, 1746, aged sixty-one years; Sarah his wife, buried March 6, 1773, aged eighty-seven years. William Wood clerk forty-four years, buried December 10, 1790, aged seventy years; Mary his wife, buried December 27, 1798, aged eighty years. James Wood clerk fifteen years, died July 5, 1805, aged forty-one years. Thomas Wood clerk thirty-four years, died May 29, 1839, aged eighty-two years, — he and his ancestors having filled that office upwards of two hundred and fifty years successively; also Mary his wife, died August 4, 1837, aged eighty-six years."

1599. May 1. Married Edwarde Sagar notarius publicus et Elizabeth Astley.
1605. August 10. Married Alexander Chorlton and Ellyne Turner by me J... Barnet(?) p'son of Northen.
1605. Thomas Roycrofte came the xith daye of August to bee minister at Diddisburye.
1605. September 19. Buried an infante still borne, whose mother was infected with the pestilence.
1605. September 19. Buried Thomas ex pestilentia.
1605. September 20. Buried Thomas Blomeley the yonger ex pestilentia.
1605. September 21. Buried Edward Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 21. Buried Richard his sonne ex eodem morbo.
1605. September 22. Buried Katharyn Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 23. Buried Ellis Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 24. Buried Thomas Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. September 26. Buried Adam Blomeley ex pestilentia.
1605. October 1. Buried Alyce Blomeley ex pestilentia.¹
1605. February 25. Baptized Anthony, sonne of ffrancis Elcocke of Stockforth.
1606. December 8. Married Mr. Proudlove and Elizabeth Hulme vidua.
1607. May 21. Married Mr. William Whitmore esquier and Mrs. Margaret Mosley.
1610. July 26. Buried ffrancis Mosley, y^e sonne of Sr Nicholas Mosley.
1610. November 13. Buried two litle infantes borne longe before theire full tyme.
1610. January 5. Buried a poore aged strange woman starved to death.

¹ Though Didsbury was not altogether free from the pestilence which in this year depopulated Manchester, as is shown by the above melancholy record, it does not appear that the township suffered very generally, the number of burials being but slightly in excess of the average in former years. In Manchester its effects were more marked; deaths increased sevenfold; no fewer than 1,078 interments were recorded in the Registers of the Collegiate Church during the year, being at least one-fifth of the inhabitants.

- 1611. July 29. Buried James Hartley, desperately slayne in his drunkennes.
- 1612. December 8. Buried Sr Nicholas Mosley knight.
- 1613. May 27. Buried An, the wyfe of Mr. Rowland Moseley.
- 1615. November 6. Buried an infante childe of Mr. Rowland Moseley Esq.
- 1616. March 11. Buried Mr. Rowland Mosley Esq.
- 1617. May 27. Buried Dame Elizabeth Mosley, the wife of Sir Nicholas Mosley knight.
- 1629. October 4. Baptized Robert, the sonne of John Davenport minister.
- 1633. february 12. Married Mr. Antonye Eleocke and Mrs. Alis Hilton.
- 1635. August 16. Baptized Mary, the doughter of Mr. Bently p'cher at Bireh Chap.
- 1636. July 27. Baptized Katharine, the daughter of John Davenport minister.
- 1636. November 15. Married Edward Mosley Esq. and Mrs. Mary Cutler, married at Chorlton Chap.
- 1636. November 24. Buried Mr. John Trafford of Chorlton.
- 1636. November 29. Buried Katharine, the daughter of John Davenport minister.
- 1638. April 3. Baptized Oswald, the sonne of — Mosley Esq.
- 1638. November 29. Buried Margaret Willsonne, a poore old woman.
- 1638. March 18. Buried Mr. Davenport minister of the Church of Didsburie.
- 1639. April 7. Baptized Nathaniel, the sonne of Mr. Turner.
- 1639. May 29. Buried Thomas, the sonne of Mr. John Davenport.
- 1639. September 15. Baptized Anne, daughter of Mr. John Davenport.
- 1642. September. Att this tyme was civill and bloodie warrs betwixt Kinge Charles and his Parliament, and Manchester was besieged the 25 of this month, and this booke was

- plundered by T. W. we^h caused this blanke [from September 4, 1642, to February 1643-4].
1642. Mr. Thomas Hebblethwaites was buried at Didsburie the xxviiijth of September. This gentleman came (in 1642) against Manchester and was slaine at the seige there, and was brought to Didsbury to bee buryed, and was buryed by Mr. Turner schoolemaster.
1643. february 16. Buried Ric: Ward gent. a troop[er].
1644. September 8. Married Captaine Charles Worsley¹ and Mary Booth.
1645. Plague in Manchester this yeare.²
1645. December 9. Baptized James, the sonne of Mr. Thomas Minshall of Manchester.
1645. february 9. Buried Mr. Bradshawe minister of Didsburie.
1647. March 14. Baptized Anne, the second daughter of Sir Edward Mosley Baronet, born March 3.
1650. April 9. Baptized Mary, the daughter of Mr. Clayton minister of Didsbury.
1650. August 9. Married Robert Powell Esq. and Mrs. Penelope Dowars, marrid at Trafford.
1651. Buried a sonne of Thomas Clayton minister.
1651. October 20. Buried Thomas Woode, who had binne clarke of Didsburie above three score yeares.
1651. December 23. Baptized Dorotheie, the daughter of Peter Ledsame minister of Didsburie.
1657. December 4. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Barronett, who was lord of the Houghe and Manchester.

¹ Of Platt Hall in Rusholme, afterwards Major-General in the Parliamentary army and M.P. for Manchester.

² In this year the inhabitants of Manchester were reduced to such distress by this terrible visitation that, by an ordinance of Parliament dated December 9, a collection was directed to be made for the poor of the town of Manchester in all the churches and chapels of Westminster. How far Didsbury suffered is not known. The Registers of the Chapel show no increase in the number of interments over the average of former years, nor in any of the entries is the cause of death specified as in the like visitation in 1605; from which circumstance we may infer that Didsbury escaped its ravages.

1661. November 4. Buried James Hudson of Heaton Norris, who was supposed to be above sixe yeares ould.
1658. September 10. Buried Mary, the daughter of James Jackson minister.
1661. December 11. Baptized Robert, y^e sonne of Robert Twyford gen.
1661. March 5. Buried Mrs. Anne Mosley of the Hough End widow.
1662. August 24. Buried Mr. Robert Twyford of Didsbury.
1664. February 10. Jane the daughter of William Rowbothom of Withington, and Mary the daughter of Nicholas Townley of Withington, were baptized at Chorlton, there being noe minister at Didsbury.
1665. August 21. Buried Misteris Elin Ross from Barlow.
1665. October 21. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Barronet, who was lord of Hough and Manchester; died the 14 daye.
1665. January 25. Buried a poore woeman that was found drowned and cast up with a flood.
1666. July 9. Buried Elin, the daughter of James Jackson minister.
1667. December 3. Buried John Parre, a doctor of fissicke, died at Hough End.
1668. January 4. Buried Margaret, the wife of Master Richard Twyford of Didsbury.
1668. Collected att Didsbury y^s 7th of february 1688 upon y^e Breife for Captives within y^e Turkish dominions the sum of two shillings and three pence.¹
1668. February 10. Buried Misteris An, the daughter of Master Joseph Manard.
1669. December 26. Buried a small infant of Alexander Barlow.
1672. November 16. Collected at Didsbury for a fire in the parish of Saint Aldates ats Saint Toles, in the subburbs of our university and city of Oxford, the sum of three shillings.

¹ Vide *History of Denton Chapel*, (Chetham Miscellanies, vol. ii. p. 117.)

1673. May 12. Baptized John, the sonne of Mr. Robert Twyford of Didsbury.
1676. November 23. Buried Master Robert Twyford.
1676. January 3. Buried Master George Wakfield of Hough End.
1677. April 10. Buried Edward, the sonne of Edward Mosley Esquire.
1677. September 10. Buried Francis, the sonne of Edward Mosley Esquire.
1680. August 24. Baptized John, the sonne of Richard Halliwell, who was born at Manchester upon Bartlemew day.
1685. September 13. Mr. Peter Shaw minister of Didsbury succeeded Mr. John Walker as minister of Didsbury this day.
1688. September 8. Buried Nicholas, sonne of Edward Mosley of Hulme.
1688. November 13 (?). Buried Maister Mosley Blenn [Bland], sonne to Sir John Blan of Kippis [Kippax] Park.
1690. Robertus filius Rob^{ti} Twyford de Didsbury fuit baptizatus die 30 Septembris 1690; ejusdem loci Pastor Ecclesiæ factus 1726.
1695. July 31. Buried Sir Edward Mosley Knight; died the 22 and was buried the 31.
1697. July 14. Buried Dame Merriell Mosley, died the 8 of this instant July, and was buried the 14 day, who was relict to Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme Knight.
1700. June 6. Buried Mr. Henry Bancroft of Heaton Norris.
1704. March 12. Baptized Samuel, son of Mr. Henry Smith of Heaton Norris.
1710. August 28. Married Mr. John Guy of Stockport parish, and Mrs. Worrel of Wilmesly parish by Lic.
1710. January 12. Baptized Elizabeth, daughter to Mr. Henry Smith of Heaton.
1710. January 28. Baptized Ann, daughter to Mr. William Broome of Chorlton.

- 1712. September 1. Buried Frances, daughter to S^r John Bland Bar^t of Hulme Hall.
- 1712. November 5. Baptized William, son to Mr. William Broome of Chorlton.
- 1712. February 2. Married the Rev. Mr. Ellison, rector of Ashton-upon-Mersey, and Mrs. Worthington widow, of the parish of Manchester, by Lic.
- 1714. September 29. Baptized Hannah, daughter of William Broome of Chorlton.
- 1715. October 29. Buried S^r John Bland Bar^t of Hulme.
- 1717. February 13. Baptized Hildebrand, son to Hildebrand Jacob Esq. of Hulme Hall.
- 1718. August 2. Married Joshua Travis, chaplain of Manchester and Elizabeth Walker, both of the parish of Manchester: by Certif. from Mr. Assheton.
- 1718. September 5. Buried James Lester minister off Didsbury and Kiper off the Libery at the Collich.
- 1719. April 24. Baptized Thomas, son of Thomas Wright minister of Didsbury.
- 1720. October 19. Baptized William, son of Thomas Wright minister of Didsbury.
- 1721. November 21. Buried Samaull, a chance child of Mary Reenchaw.
- 1723. January 12. Baptized Mary, daughter of William and Mary Twyford of Didsbury.
- 1723. January 29. Baptized Willielmus filius Robti Twyford clerici et Mariæ uxoris, natus 8^{vo} die Januarii 1723, et vicesimo nono mensis predict fuit baptizatus, Glossop.
- 1724. January 30. Baptized Robert Tettlow, y^e son of John Tettlow minister of Birch.
- 1726. March 19. Baptized Martha filia Roberti Twyford clerici et Mariæ uxoris, nata fuit decimo tertio die Martii 1726-7, et decimo nono baptizata.
- 1728. January 13. Buried Thomas Chorlton de Grundey Hill Heaton, who left ffour pounds per ann. to Didsbury

Church for ever, to be given in Bread by the Churchwardens each Sunday to such poor persons of the townships of Heaton, Didsbury, Withington, and Burnage as come to Divine Service. And twenty shillings per annum to the Schooll for ever, payable out of y^e land at Grundey Hill.

- 1728. February 7. Buried George Hamson de Allikers, — sese strangulavit.
- 1729. June 23. Buried Samuel Gilbody de Reddish, qui demersus erat.
- 1729. November 29. Buried Thomas Oax, vagus ex impensu de Heaton.
- 1729. March 12. Buried Valentinus filius Dominæ Chatbourn, spurius.
- 1730. April 5. Buried Gulielmus Twyford de Hulme, Doctor.
- 1730. May 6. Baptized John Tetlow, son of y^e Rev. Mr. Tetlow min^r of Birch.
- 1731. July 4. Buried Franciscæ filia Gulielmi Broome generosi de Chorlton.
- 1731. November 22. Married Richard Broome de Manchester, jurisconsultus, and Mary Benison of Bredbury, Stockport parish.
- 1732. February 2. Married Radolphus Henshaw de Wimslow, clericus, and Anna Shaw de Wimslow.
- 1732. March 4. Buried Martha Alcock de Withington, apud Conventiculum sepult.
- 1733. February 18. Buried Thomas Hough, a poor boy who was shot accidentally.
- 1734. July 26. Buried Peter Beech, a disbanded soldier.
- 1734. August 3. Buried D.A.B. alias The Honourable Lady Bland, relict of S^r John Bland Baronett; died July 26.
- 1734. December 13. Baptized Thomas, son of Mr. Charles Hobson of Withington.
- 1736. April 9. Buried Mary, wife of Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.

1736. November 27. Buried Mr. William Broom of Chorlton, Sr John Bland's steward.
1736. December 2. Married Revd. Mr. Samuel Townson curate of Oldham and Alice Yannis of Crompton; mar. by Lic.
1736. January 27. Buried Daniel, son to Mr. Henry Smith of Norris Hill.
1736. March 17. Buried Mr. Richard Lankford of Withington, Bachelor.
1737. March 13. Baptized John, son to Mr. Simister late of Stockport.
1737. March 16. Baptized John, son to Mr. John Hall of Heaton.
1738. April 17. Baptized Martha, daughter to Mr. Alexander Boardman of Withington.
1738. October 18. Baptized Robert, son to Mr. Robert France of Didsbury.
1738. February 13. Married Mr. John Siddall of Slade Hall in this parish, and Anne Bresgirdle of Hanford in Cheadle parish, by Lic.
1738. March 11. Buried John, the son of Mr. Robert France of Didsbury.
1739. April 8. Baptized Joseph, son to Mr. Charles Hobson, Levenshulme.
1739. July 19. Buried James, son to Mr. James Cox of Heaton Moor.
1739. February 28. Baptized Mary, daughter to Mr. Alexander Boardman of Withington.
1740. April 12. Buried Richard, son to Richard Broome of Manchester gen.
1740. June 11. Baptized Sarah, daughter to Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.
1741. June 20. Baptized Mary, daughter to Mr. Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.
1743. May 8. Baptized James, son to Mr. James Cox of Heaton.

1743. January 22. Married John Walmsley of Stockport parish, and Mary Twyford of Didsbury; by Lic.
1744. June 28. Buried Martha, daughter to Robert Twyford minister; died June 25.
1744. November 4. Baptized Henry, son to Rostern Mere of Heaton.
1745. May 4. Baptized Ann, daughter to Mr. Thomas Brierley of Heaton Norris.
1745. July 3. Married Mr. James Clough of Manchester, chapman, and Miss Anne Broome of Didsbury; by Lic.
1745. July 25. Married the Rev. William Twyford and Miss Molly Broome both of Didsbury; by License.
1745. December 10. A poor man buried at Didsbury, found dead in Heaton when the Rebels past.
1745. January 12. Baptized Charles, son to Mr. Hobson of Levenshulme.
1745. January 25. Buried Elizabeth, daughter to Mr. Richard Broome of Manchester.
1745. March 19. Buried Robert Twyford of Didsbury; buried ith Chancel.
1746. October 28. Baptized Martha, daughter to y^e Rev. Mr. William Twyford minister rec^d yⁿ at Birch Ch. (she was born on y^e first day).
- 1746-7. March 2. Buried the Rev. Robert Twyford minister of Didsbury.
1747. April 23. Buried Mary, wife to Richard Broome of Manchester gent.
1747. June 8. Buried Richard, son to Richard Broome of Manchester gent.
1748. May 4. Buried John Hulme of Didsbury, from y^e Peel.
1748. June 10. Baptized Mary, daughter to y^e Rev. Mr. Twyford of Didsbury; she was born May 8.
1748. December 21. Baptized Robert, son to Mr. Brierley of Heaton.
1750. June 3. Baptized Peter, son to Charles Hobson of Levenshulme.

- 1750. March 2. Baptized Robert, son of y^e Rev. William Twyford minister of Didsbury; born January 26.
- 1751. February 14. Baptized Frances, y^e daughter of y^e Rev. William Twyford of Didsbury.
- 1753. August 24. Buried John Hudson of Heaton Norris gent.
- 1754. April 17. Baptized Ann, daughter of the Rev. William Twyford of Didsbury; born March 26.
- 1754. June 7. Buried William, son of William Broome of Didsbury gent.
- 1754. September 27. Buried Martha, daughter of Mr. Boardman late of Withington.
- 1755. July 2. Baptized William, son of William Broome of Didsbury gent.
- 1756. May 27. Baptized Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. William Twyford minister of Didsbury.
- 1758. April 12. Baptized James, son of Mr. William Broome of Didsbury.
- 1758. September 5. Baptized William, son of the Rev. William Twyford minister hujus loci; born August 5.
- 1759. April 20. Baptized John, son of Mr. William Broome of Didsbury.
- 1759. September 19. Baptized Richard, son of Epaphroditus Bullock.
- 1760. January 18. Buried Richard Broome of Didsbury gent. an attorney-at-law.

Two Wardens are annually elected for the chapelry—one chosen by the minister, and the other by the inhabitants in vestry assembled. Each of the four townships returns its sidesman.

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| 1613. John Twyford. | 1639. John Barlow. |
| Robert Brooke. | John Bancroft. |
| 1628. Laurence Barlow. | 1640. John Rudd. |
| Nicholas Langford. | John Smith. |
| 1638. Robert Bancroft. | 1641. Edmund Chorlton. |
| John Barlow. | Thomas Rudd. |

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| 1642. William Langford.
George Smyth. | 1671. Alexander Walker.
William Rowbotham. |
| 1644. Richard Chorlton.
George Jackson. | 1672. Richard Townley.
Edward Hulme. |
| 1645. Thomas Birch.
Nicholas Hoult. | 1673. Robert Ridgway.
Edward Worsley. |
| 1652. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1674. John Chorlton.
Richard Heywood. |
| 1653. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1675. Richard Heywood.
Peter Fletcher. |
| 1654. John Smith.
Francis Mosley. | 1678. William Garnett.
Edward Linney. |
| 1655. Jonathan Gee.
William Rowbotham. | 1679. Alexander Boardman.
James Arstall. |
| 1656. Richard Townley.
Thomas Smith. | 1681. William Birch. |
| 1658. James Boardman.
Alexander Wood. | 1684. Thomas Garnett.
Edmund Fletcher. |
| 1659. William Garnett.
Thomas Rydings. | 1685. Thomas Rydings.
Edmund Fletcher. |
| 1660. William Blomeley.
Robert Baguley. | 1686. Richard Thorton.
William Cotterell. |
| 1661. Thomas Fletcher.
Henry Rydings. | 1690. Richard Fletcher.
John Brookes. |
| 1663. William Birch.
George Fletcher. | 1691. Richard Fletcher.
John Brookes. |
| 1665. John Seddon.
William Baguley. | 1701. William Blomeley.
John Didsbury. |
| 1667. Richard Townley.
Francis Mosley. | 1702. Thomas Wood. |
| 1668. Edward Langford.
Nicholas Wood. | 1703. Thomas Wood. |
| 1669. Nicholas Wood. | 1704. Joseph Alcock. |
| 1670. Alexander Wood.
Uriah Hoult. | 1705. William Henshaw.
Nicholas Chorlton. |
| | 1706. William Henshaw.
Nicholas Chorlton. |

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| 1707. William Henshaw. | 1728. Samuel Walker. |
| Nicholas Chorlton. | William Langford. |
| 1708. Thomas Wood. | 1729. John Holme. |
| James Boardman. | John Shuttleworth. |
| 1709. Thomas Wood. | 1730. John Holme. |
| James Boardman. | John Shuttleworth. |
| 1710. Richard Oliver. | 1731. William Blomeley. |
| 1711. Alexander Wood. | Alexander Boardman. |
| James Bailey. | 1732. Robert Twyford. |
| 1712. John Rudd. | Richard Oliver. |
| Thomas Smith. | 1733. John Cheetham. |
| 1715. Samuel Brown. | John Rudd. |
| Thomas Breckel. | 1734. Thomas Bireh. |
| 1716. Thomas Thorniley. | John Bayley. |
| Richard Oliver. | 1735. Thomas Bireh. |
| 1717. William Langford. | John Bayley. |
| Edward Hampson. | 1736. Thomas Rudd. |
| 1718. William Barlow. | George Fletcher. |
| James Scholefield. | 1737. John Shaleross. |
| 1719. John Lamb. | John Hulme. |
| 1721. Edward Norris. | 1738. William Bayley. |
| Richard Hampson. | Samuel Chorlton. |
| 1722. Edward Norris. | 1739. Samuel Thornhill. |
| Richard Hampson. | Ralph Worsley. |
| 1723. Henry Smith. | 1740. Samuel Barlow. |
| Thomas Blomeley. | Thomas Garnett. |
| 1724. John Chorlton. | 1741. Samuel Barlow. |
| George Whitelegg. | John Boardman. |
| 1725. George Fletcher. | 1742. John Cheetham. |
| Richard Fletcher. | Samuel Goolden. |
| 1726. Robert Twyford. | 1743. John Cheetham. |
| Thomas Garnett. | Samuel Goolden. |
| 1727. Robert Twyford. | 1744. John Hudson. |
| Thomas Garnett. | Joseph Watson. |

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| 1745. Richard Wyatt.
James Kelsall. | 1762. Samuel Aldford.
Ralph Hamnet. |
| 1746. John Hulme.
James Didsbury. | 1763. Edward Hulme. |
| 1747. James Davenport.
John Heapitt. | 1764. Thomas Blomeley.
Samuel Cheetham |
| 1748. William Wood.
John Hampson. | 1765. Ralph Worsley.
James Jenkinson. |
| 1749. Robert Twyford.
Thomas Blomeley. | 1766. Ralph Worsley.
Edward Langford. |
| 1750. Samuel Walker.
William Garnett. | 1767. John Heap.
Joshua Watt. |
| 1751. Thomas Chorlton.
Thomas Whitelegg. | 1768. Alexander Goolden.
James Smith. |
| 1752. Joseph Alcock.
Edward Langford. | 1769. Alexander Goolden.
James Smith. |
| 1753. Edward Norris.
Richard Wyatt. | 1770. Jeremiah Bibby.
William Birch. |
| 1754. John Chorlton.
Jeremiah Barlow. | 1771. John Cheetham.
Samuel Mycock. |
| 1755. Thomas Hulme.
Samuel Rowbotham. | 1772. John Cheetham.
Samuel Mycock. |
| 1756. Robert Hesketh.
John Taylor. | 1773. John Hampson.
John Davenport. |
| 1757. Robert Twyford.
John Brundreth. | 1774. John Hampson.
Samuel Butterworth. |
| 1758. John Rigby.
Hugh Mottram. | 1775. William Watson.
James Golden. |
| 1759. James Shelmerdine.
Robert Garside. | 1776. William Watson.
James Golden. |
| 1760. Robert Blomeley.
Samuel Norris. | 1777. John Heapey.
John Birch. |
| 1761. Samuel Walker.
Richard Jepson. | 1778. John Heapey.
John Birch. |

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| 1779. John Heapey. | 1796. John Hampson. |
| John Birch. | Thomas Jepson. |
| 1780. Thomas Foiles. | 1797. Thomas Jepson. |
| Thomas Rudd. | James Smith. |
| 1781. William Broome. | 1798. John Rudd. |
| James Gardner. | James Smith. |
| 1782. William Broome. | 1799. John Rudd. |
| James Gardner. | James Smith. |
| 1783. John Rudd. | 1800. John Rudd. |
| Edward Lankford. | Charles Wood. |
| 1784. John Rudd. | 1801. Thomas Pedley. |
| Edward Lankford. | 1802. John Rudd. |
| 1785. Thomas Wood. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| Thomas Fildes. | 1803. John Rudd. |
| 1786. Robert Linney. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| James Rudd. | 1804. John Rudd. |
| 1787. Thomas Hulme. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| John Orford. | 1805. John Rudd. |
| 1788. Thomas Hulme. | Benjamin Brookes. |
| John Orford. | 1806. Benjamin Brookes. |
| 1789. Peter Taylor. | John Hilton. |
| John Heywood. | 1807. John Hilton. |
| 1790. John Fletcher. | Thomas Rudd. |
| Thomas Hesketh. | 1808. Thomas Rudd. |
| 1791. Daniel Adkinson. | John Hilton. |
| Thomas Hesketh. | 1809. Samuel Goolden. |
| 1792. Daniel Atkinson. | John Hilton. |
| Daniel Massey. | 1810. Samuel Goolden. |
| 1793. Daniel Massey. | John Hilton. |
| Joseph Goodier. | 1811. John Hilton. |
| 1794. Joseph Goodier. | Samuel Goolden. |
| Daniel Massey. | 1812. Robert Feilden. |
| 1795. John Hampson. | Thomas Hudson. |
| Thomas Jepson. | |

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| 1813. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1830. John Wood.
James Worsley. |
| 1814. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1831. James Worsley.
Jonathan Langford. |
| 1815. Robert Feilden.
Thomas Hudson. | 1832. James Worsley.
John Hampson. |
| 1816. Robert Feilden.
Robert Parker. | 1833. William Scragg.
Joseph Chadwick. |
| 1817. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1834. William Scragg.
Joseph Chadwick. |
| 1818. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1835. <u>John Thorniley.</u>
John Ogden. |
| 1819. Robert Parker.
George Webster. | 1836. <u>John Thorniley.</u>
John Ogden. |
| 1820. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1837. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1821. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1838. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1822. George Webster.
Thomas Jepson. | 1839. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1823. Richard Simpson.
Joseph Birley. | 1840. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1824. George Webster.
Thomas Mottram. | 1841. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1825. George Webster.
Thomas Mottram. | 1842. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1826. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1843. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1827. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1844. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1828. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1845. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |
| 1829. William Lane.
John Wood. | 1846. John Thorniley.
John Ogden. |

1847. John Ogden.	1853. G. F. Robinson.	} Double return.
James Bradburn.	John Thorniley.	
1848. John Ogden.	1854. John Moss.	
James Bradburn.	James Dorrington.	
1849. John Ogden.	John Moss.	}
James Bradburn.	John Thorniley.	
1850. Herbert Birley.	1855. John Moss.	}
William Bowden.	Joseph Bull.	
1851. William Hobbes.	1856. John Moss.	}
John Thorniley.	Joseph Bull.	
1852. William Hobbes.		
John Thorniley.		

Extracts from the Chapel-wardens' Accounts :—

1645.	Received of George Blomeley of the church stocke	02 00 00
—	Received of the sequestrators towards the re- paire of the chansell ¹	01 10 00
—	Received of Mary Whitelegge of Gattley for the use of the church stocke ..	00 07 00

¹ In 1643 a committee was appointed by ordinance of Parliament for sequestering "the estates of delinquents, papists, spies and intelligencers" throughout the kingdom, directing moreover that all bishops, deans and other persons who have raised or shall raise arms against the Parliament, or shall be in actual war against it, or shall have contributed any money, arms, &c. towards the force of the enemy, shall have their property sequestered into the hands of sequestrators and committees in this order named. The committee for the county of Lancaster held its sittings usually at Preston, and was composed of the following persons: Sir Ralph Assheton, Sir Thomas Stanley, Sir Ralph Assheton of Downham, Ralph Assheton of Middleton Esq., Richard Shuttleworth Esq., Alexander Rigby Esq., John Moore Esq., Richard Holland Esq., Edward Butterworth, Esq., John Bradshaw Esq., William Ashurst Esq., Peter Egerton Esq., George Dodding Esq., Nicholas Cunliffe Esq., John Starkie Esq., Thomas Birch Esq., Thomas Fell Esq., Robert Cunliffe Gent., Robert Curwen Gent., and John Nowell Gent. By this new arrangement tithe ceased to be collected. Church-lands &c. were confiscated to the State; the clergy were paid out of the common fund, and the cost of repairs of churches and chapels was defrayed from the same source.

1645.	Paide unto Mrs. Bradshawe for the goodes wch wee bought for Mr. Cleton	03 00 00
—	Paide for one pewter basson to baptise children in ¹	00 03 05
—	Paide for the Directorie for Mr. Bradshawe. ²	
—	Paide for three ordinances of parlement — one for the ellectinge and choosinge of elders, and two for the observation of the Sabbath and ffaste dayes.....	00 01 01
—	Paide for the booke of Devine right of Church Government.....	00 02 04
—	Spent in goinge to hyre Mr. Shelmerdine	00 00 09
—	Laide forth to give Mr. Smith entertainment...	00 03 00
—	Spent to procure Mr. Marler to teach one day .	00 00 04
—	Paide for five sackes of mosse and the carrige..	00 01 08
—	Paide in charges and in goinge to the seques- trat ^{rs} and of the workemen	00 13 00
—	Paide unto the ringers for ringinge the firste yeare upon the king's holiday	00 03 00
1652.	Spent upon the ringers y ^e fift of November ...	00 04 06
1659.	Paide ffor a diall	00 06 00
—	Paide ffor lead to fasten the diall	00 01 00
—	Paide to William Hunt for fitting the head of the cross for the diall	00 00 06
—	Paide to the ringers the 24 of Maie	00 01 00

¹ About this time the use of founts in churches was discontinued as superstitious, and it was directed that children be baptised from a bason "in the face of the congregation, where the people may most conveniently see and heare, and not in the places where founts in the time of popery were unfitly and superstitiously placed." — See *History of the Ancient Chapel of Blackley*, note, p. 84.

² On prohibiting the further use of the Book of Common Prayer by an ordinance of Parliament, dated January 3, 1644, it was decreed that "A Directory for the Publique worship of God throughout the three kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland" should be immediately issued, which accordingly was done. This is the "Directorie" alluded to in the text, and Mr. Bradshaw, for whom it was purchased, was the then minister of Didsbury Chapel.

[At this period the Holy Communion was administered at Didsbury four times during the year, viz. on Christmas Day, Easter Day, Whitsunday, and Michaelmas.]

1660.	Laid downe on the coronation daie ¹	00 04 04
—	Paide to Jeferie of Gatley for fetlinge the bells .	00 02 06
1671.	Spent when wee were warned to meete by y ^e constables about harth-lay ²	00 01 00
—	Paide to y ^e clark for his wages	00 05 00
—	Spente on Mr. Worsleye when hee preached one day att our chappell	00 02 00
—	Paide for a new byar.....	00 16 00
—	Spent in goeing to visitt y ^e alehouses at sev'all tymes with the assistants	00 02 00
—	Spent on y ^e ringers on y ^e 29 of May, beinge y ^e king's birth and restauraçon daye	00 03 00

Form of Summons to the Minister of Didsbury to attend
the Bishop's Visitation :

To the Minister of Didsbury.

These are to give notice y^t you make yo^r owne p'sonal
appearance at the Visitaçon of the Right Rev^d ffather in
God John [Wilkins] L^d Bp. of Chester, to be holden in
the Parish Church of Manchester on Saturday the tenth
day of June next, betwixt the houres of nine and eleaven
in y^e forenoone ; And alsoe to cite all ministers of hospi-
talls, lecturers or stipendaries and schoolemasters, alsoe all
practisers of phisic or chirurgery, likewise all ffarmers or
sequestrators of tythes, parish clerkes and midwives,³ to

¹ Charles II.

² This tax was imposed by Act 15 Car. II. cap. 13, and was repealed by Act 1 William and Mary, cap. 10. For further particulars relating to the circumstances under which it was first levied, and its extreme unpopularity, vide *History of Denton Chapel*, (Chetham Miscellanies, vol. ii.) note, pp. 99, 100.

³ The practice of granting licenses on the part of bishops at their visitations, to surgeons and midwives, however foreign to our present ideas of episcopal duty and

appeare at y^e time and place afores^d, and then and there to pay all p^rcura^ons, pen^ons, synodalls and dues due and belonging to y^e s^d L^d Bp. by reason of his s^d Visita^on; and alsoc to p^rduce, exhibite yo^r and their Lett^{rs} of Orders,

responsibility, was at one time universal. By Statute 3 Henry VIII. cap. 11, it was provided that, "Forasmuche as the science and connyng of physyke and surg^e, to the p^rfecte knowlege wherof bee requisite both grete lernyng and ripe expⁱence, ys daily within this royalme ex^ecised by a grete multitude of ignoraunt p^rsones of whom the grete partie have no man['] of insight in the same nor in any other kynde of lernyng; some also can no l^res on the boke, soofarfurth that com[']on artifice^s, as smythes, werers and women boldely and custumably take upon them grete curis and thyngys of great difficultie, in the which they partely use socery and whicercrafte, partely applie such medicyne unto the disease as be verrey noyous and nothing metely therfore, to the high displeasure of God, great infamyte to the faculties and the grevous hurte, damage and destruccion of many of the king['] liege people, most sp^ally of them that cannot descerne the uneun[']yng from the cunnyng — Be it therfore, to the suertie and comfort of all man['] people, by the auctoritie of thys p^rsent Parliament enacted, that noo p^rson within the citie of London nor within vij myles of the same take upon hym to ex^ecise and occupie as a phisicien or surgion except he be first examined and approved and admitted by the Bissshop of London or by the Dean of Poules for the tyme beyng, callyng to hym or them iiij doctours of phisyk, and for surg^eie other exp^t p^rsones in that facultie, and for the first examyna^on such as they shall thynk convenient, and aftward alway iiij of them that have been soo approved, upon the payn of forfeytour for ev[']y moneth that they doo occupie as phisiciens or surgeons not admitted nor examined after the tenour of thys acte of v^h, to be employed, the oon half therof to thuse of our Sov[']aign Lord the Kyng, and the other half therof to any p^rson that wyll sue for it by acⁱon of dette in which no wageour of lawe nor p^rteccion shalbe allowed; And ov['] thys that noo p^rson out of the seid citie and p^reinete of vij myles of the same, except he have been as is seid before approved in the same, take upon hym to ex^ecise and occupie as a phisicien or surgeon in any diocesse within thys royalme, but if he be first examined and approved by the bisshop of the same diocesse, or he beyng out of the diocesse by his vicar gen[']all, either of them callyng to them such expert p^rsons in the seid faculties as there discrecion shall thynk convenyent, and gyffyng their lett[']s testimonials under ther sealle to hym that they shall soo approve upon like payn to them that occupie the contr[']ie to thys acte as is above seid to be levyed and employed after the fourme before exp[']ssed. Provided alway that thys acte nor any thyng therin conteyned be p^rjudiciall to the univ[']sities of Oxford and Cantebrygge or either of them, or to any privilegys g[']anted to them." In one of the Act Books of Chester diocese an entry occurs under the date August 14, 1667, of a license granted to William Hartley of Manchester to practise "artem chirurg['] per totam dioc['] Cest." A manuscript volume once belonging to Bishop

Institucons, Induecons, faculties, Licenses to preach, serve the cure, or to teache y^e schoole subscripcōns to the declaracon mençoed in y^e Act of Uniformity, and all other Licenses and Dispensacons whatsoever; and alsoe to cite all chappell wardens to appeare at y^e same time and place then and there to give in and make a full and true answe^r and p^resentm^t to the Booke of Artes herewith sent unto them. You are alsoe to sumōn then and there to appeare all executo^{rs}, of any Wills not yet duely proved, and the occupiers of any deced^{ts} estates who have not by just authority duely administred y^e same y^t they doe appeare and p^rve y^e said Wills and take upon them the due admracon of such estates; and further to doe and receive as to justice shall appertaine. Dated the fourth daye of May anno Domi. 1671.

GULIEL. WILSON, Reg^r Dep.

1673.	Spent on Mr. Yannes and Mr. Pachy when they	
	preached at o ^r chappell.	00 00 06
—	Disbursed for a tippet for the minister . . .	01 04 02
—	Spent when Mr. Adams preached att o ^r church	00 01 00
	[Other preachers during the year were Messrs. Jackson, Worsley and Beeley.]	
—	Spent at Chedle boate ¹	00 01 06

Warburton contains, amongst various other forms, "Licentia Obstetricis." The permission to exercise the vocation runs thus: "Eandem A.B. ad exercendam Artem et Officium Obstetricis in et per totam diocesan Gloucestremsen prædictam admisit, et Literas Testimoniales superinde fieri decrevit." And in the Articles to be enquired into in the province of Canterbury in the year 1571, the question is directed to be asked—"Whether any use charms or unlawful prayers, or invocations in Latin or otherwise, and *namely, midwives in the time of women's travail of child.*" In the oath taken by Eleanor Pead, before being licensed by the archbishop to be a midwife, a similar clause occurs: "Also I will not use any kind of sorcery or incantations in the time of the travail of any woman."—*Notes and Queries*, vol. ii. pp. 408, 499.

¹ Gately Ford or Ferry, which before the erection of Cheadle Bridge over the Mersey was the highway to Manchester. Over this ferry the Pretender's forces passed on their departure from Manchester in 1745, on which occasion they seized as

1673.	Paide for bread att Easter, 00 00 04; gave 00 00 04 for carryinge y ^e wyne ¹	
1674.	Spent att the Visitation.....	00 01 06
1675.	Spent at Didsbury when Mr. Wrigley preached.	00 01 00
1677.	Spent about those not chargeable with hearth- money.....	00 00 04
1679.	Paide ffor the woollen acte ²	00 00 06
—	Spent on Mr. Lomax preaching in our parson's absence at Wimslow on two severall occasions	00 01 02
—	Spent in a treat of our parson on Chirsmas Day	00 00 04
1681.	Paide when Mester Yanes preached	00 00 10
—	Paide for tow peuter flagins.....	00 04 00
1697.	Spent when y ^e parson and I went to gather money for y ^e church w ^{ch} was burnt..	00 01 00
—	Paide a woman w ^{ch} came w th a letter of request in y ^e parson's chamber.....	00 01 06
1698.	Spent when Mr. Dickens was here to preach...	00 01 06

a hostage, carrying him with them as far as Derby, James Bayley of Withington Esq., to enforce the payment of the sum of £5000, levied on the inhabitants of Manchester during their hasty visit.

¹ The Collegiate Church of Manchester formerly supplied wine for the Easter Communion at Didsbury, a custom in all probability dating from the first erection of a chapel there, and continued down to a comparatively recent period, as appears from subsequent entries. In the twelfth century when the cup was first withheld from the laity, to whom the Holy Communion was administered under one kind only, it became the practice to give unconsecrated wine to those who had communicated, a custom still prevalent in some Roman Catholic countries. This doubtless would lead to an increased consumption of wine, and as the Rubric lays special stress on the duty of communicating on Easter Day this provision made by the mother church for the relief of the filial chapel becomes more intelligible. Similar allusion to the providing of wine specially for the Easter Communion is found in "Inventories and Account Rolls of the Benedictine Houses of Yarrow and Monk Wearmouth" (Publications of the Surtees Society): "1370, In vino empto pro diebus festivalibus et communione parochianorum ad Paschā xj^a vj^d."

² An Act passed in the year 1679, directing the interment of all corpses in shrouds of woollen, instead of linen as heretofore, and intended to encourage the woollen manufactures of the kingdom and to lessen the importation of linen. It was repealed by Act 54 George III. cap. 108. — Vide *History of Blackley Chapel*, note, p. 85.

1698.	Spent when we gathered y ^e monys for y ^e banish'd Protestants	00 01 06
1699.	Paide towards the Black	00 18 00
—	Paide for y ^e surprise when it was eaten.....	00 00 04 ^{ob}
1700.	[Strange preachers during the year, Parson Hind, Mr. Dickins, Mr. Clayton.]	
1701.	[Strange preachers during the year, Mr. Ashton, Mr. Bann, Mr. Morton, Mr. Boulton, Mr. Ash.]	
—	Paid to the ringers when the Queen was proclaimed	00 03 01
1704.	Paid when we went to Manchester about changing the bells	00 01 06
1706.	Paide when the bells were taken down	00 05 00
—	Paide to y ^e Manchester church-wardens for change of bells ¹	20 02 00

¹ In this year a question arose as to the re-casting of the Manchester Collegiate Church bells in consequence of one or more of them being cracked, and at a meeting of the parishioners, convened by the churchwardens, it was resolved at once to carry the proposition into effect. From this entry it appears that the inhabitants of Didsbury selected certain of the now condemned Manchester bells, for which they gave in return a part of their own peal and the further sum of £20. Amongst the Egerton Papers at Heaton is the following statement of the proceedings of the Manchester churchwardens in relation to the re-casting of their own bells:

A Relac'on of y^e m^rs of faet &c. of Manchestr Bells,
from the flirst pt. being broken to 30th of August 1707.

To the best of my memory ab^t 5 years since y^e ffifth bell was burst, by w^{ch} y^e whole peale was supposed to be so disordered as to require all to be cast a new. Y^e p^rish upon it mett, wⁿ the town of Manch^r offer'd y^t in case y^e bells was newcast ov^r and above their quotas of church-lay to advance £100 if y^e p^rish thought fit, towards adding two more bells to y^e six old ones. Y^e resolute'on of y^e p^rish at y^t convention was not to cast any of y^e bells but to turn y^e clapper to y^e sound sides of the burst bell, w^{ch} was accordingly done; and in y^t condic'on y^e bells rested, tho' not tuneable, till about 20 months since y^e 6th or biggest bell burst, w^{ch} wth y^e other burst 5th, accounting from y^r weight (y^e charge of casting bells) was more yⁿ half y^e whole sett by 365^{lb}. Y^e bursting of y^e last bell happen'd so near y^e close of y^e year y^t y^e churchward^s for that year, having not time to finish anything they should undertake of bell matters, in y^t order the bells continued till y^e new churchward^s was chosen, amongst whom it was agreed to signifye the yⁿ p^resent circumstances of y^e bells to S^r Edward

1706. Paide when y ^e bells were fetched from Man-	
chester	00 10 00
— Spent when y ^e bells were hung	00 08 00

Cooke [Coke] and St Jo. Egerton, by a special messenger for expedition (as being by y^{ir} estates in y^e p^{ish} so considerably concerned in y^e charge) to desire their advise and know y^{ir} will in y^e matter. The churchward^{ns} obtained no ans^r, but for one by word of mouth of y^e messenger was by y^m worthy gentlemⁿ referr'd to Mr. Nathan Ardern. To him for ans^r they apply'd; he declined giving any ans^r from them, but appeared very reserved, — askt for an acknowledgm^t from y^e churchward^{ns} of two p^ticular seats for y^m gentlemⁿ beforenamed. The churchward^{ns} did not think it in y^{ir} power to dispose of seats in church to p^ticular families, — told Mr. Ardern y^t as farr as they knew, all y^e seates in y^e body of y^e church belonged to y^e publick, and none had p^ticular priviledg to any seats there; — if them worthy gentlemⁿ had good titles to y^e seats the churchward^{ns} was not for depriving any body of y^{ir} rights any more yⁿ giving up those of y^e publick. Nothing of ans^r cou'd y^e churchwardens gett frō Mr. Ardern then or since (as ans^r to y^{ir} P^{rs}) from St Edward or St John, nor can guess w^t it was excepting it was the demanding of y^e seates. The conference aboves^d was wth Mr. Ardern of Saturday; Yⁿ y^e churchward^{ns} told him y^t the day following they designed to give publick notice at church for calling of a p^{ish} meeting to consid^r of y^e bells &c. on Friday following. Mr. Ashe chaplain publisht y^e notice accordingly. Pursuant to it y^e p^{ish} mett (the bells taken down in ord^r for y^e p^{ish}-ioner's view), Mr. Ardern wth some of his neighbours yⁿ p^{esent}. After some debate wheth^r y^e whole sett, or only y^e two burst bells should be newcast, y^e farr great^r part of y^e parish convened agreed for newcasting the six bells, and for defraying y^e charge at y^t time assess'd y^mselves 6 church-lays for y^e year 1706 as requisit for y^t year's business: (Note — a church-lay is £10, and 2 church-lays is expended for bread and wine and com'on repaires communibus annis.) The p^{ish}ioners y^t had argued agst y^e recasting all y^e bells, and only for newcasting y^e two burst ones, wⁿ y^e p^ticular voices came to be demanded by poll, refused to vote, all except Mr. Lever of Collihurst, so y^t excepting him y^e voting p^t unanimously agreed of casting y^e whole six and making y^e order for y^e s^d levy of six church-lays, as may and does appear upon record in y^e P^{ish} Book. So ended y^e s^d meeting, and according to y^e s^d order yⁿ made has y^e churchward^{ns} acted at y^{ir} own charge, and hung up an addic^{on} of two new bells. Some in y^e p^{ish} refuses to pay y^{ir} lays (of w^{ch} Mr. Arderne is esteemed y^e chiefest abett^r, y^e farr greatest part of y^e refusers consisting of tennants to y^m two worthy Barr^{ts}.) Y^e churchward^{ns} are now suing in y^e Eccleial Court at Chest^r some 16 or thereab^{ts} of y^e p^sons refusing to pay. The course of y^e suite so farr has been this: After citac^{on} and appearance, y^e churchwardens, y^e p^{ff}, gave into court y^{ir} articles, in w^{ch}, rehearsed according to form and matter of fact, y^{ir} reasons for demanding y^{ir} p^ticular church-layes — y^e def^{ts} putt in y^{ir} ans^{rs} upon oath, in w^{ch} they sett forth they believe almost all y^e p^{ff}s assertions in y^e articles to be false suggested. (A copy of y^e def^{ts} ans^{rs} may be seen at Mr. Willimot's proctor at D^{cs} Com^{ons}.) The p^{ff}s

1706. Spent when Mr. Collier preached	00 00 09
—— Paid ffor a book on the thanksgiving-day	00 00 08
—— Paid ffor a book on the fast-day.....	00 00 08

have minuitly, I think, proved upon oath (as may appear by y^{ir} wittness dep'ons) all y^e assertions of y^{ir} articles. The churchwardens are often allarmed wth threats of p^hibic'ons to this court or appeales to superior. But thus y^e case now stands : Y^e def^ts charge of y^e suite is p^tly if not cheifly maintained at the charge (tho' paid with reluctance and wrested wth cruelty) of persons, some forced and some decoyed, associated for that end, — some whose church-lays are already paid by better considering the matter, and some who yet have not shewed y^mselves.

The computed charge of casting y ^e six bells :		li. s. d.
Imp. Their carriage to Atcham Bridge ... 65 ^{cwt} 3 ^{qr} 5 ^{lb} at 2 ^s 9 ^d p ^r 120 ^{lbs}		08 09 00
Their addition of weight..... 9 ^{cwt} 0 ^{qr} 12 ^{lb} at 5 ^{li} 12 ^s p ^r cwt.		51 00 00
Allowance of 4 ^s p ^r cent for waste of melting . 2 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 11 ^{lb} at 5 ^{li} 12 ^s		13 03 00
Their carriage from Salop..... 78 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 27 ^{lb} at 3 ^s p ^r 120 ^{lbs}		11 00 00
Their charge of casting		70 00 00
The frame and hanging		60 00 00
Mem.—Towards y ^e frame will gett something from town		
of Maneh ^r for rooms of two new bells to lessen this		213 12 00
charge.		
The very charge had only y ^e two burst bells been east :		
Their carriage to Atcham 36 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 8 ^{lb} at 2 ^s 9 ^d p ^r 120 ^{lbs}		04 13 00
Allowance of 4 ^s p ^r cent for waste in melting ... 1 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 5 ^{lb} at 12 ^d		07 05 00
Lowest price for casting em alone		42 15 00
Their carriage from Salop, viz..... 36 ^{cwt} 1 ^{qr} 8 ^{lb} at 3 ^s p ^r 120 ^{lb}		05 02 00
Frame and hanging		60 00 00
		119 15 00
To w ^{ch} adding the new mettall bought.....		51 00 00

The difference (including y^e s^d mettall added) of easting } 42 17 00
the six and the two is just }

The inhabitants of Didsbury do not appear to have been long contented with their bargain, for in 1727 the whole peal was re-cast, as is evidenced by the bells themselves, which bear the following inscriptions :

1. Let us ring for the Church and the King. 1727.
2. Prosperity to all our Benefactors. 1727.
3. Lady Ann Bland and S^r John her son, benefactors. 1727.
4. Robert Twyford, minister. 1727.
5. William Twyford and Tho^s Whitelegg, churchwardens. 1727.
6. Ab^r. Rudhall of Glocester east us all. 1727.

We have notice (*Ducatus Lancastrie*, vol. ii. p. 138) of a bell or bells at Didsbury

1708.	Spent when Thomas Garnet begged the communion cann ¹	00 01 06
—	Spent when we did fetch y ^e flagon.....	00 00 06
1709.	Paid on the thanksgiving-day when we conducted about the parson	00 02 06
1711.	Spent when y ^e augmentation money was paid..	00 01 00
1712.	Spent on Christmas Day with a strange parson	00 01 00
1715.	Spent with Mr. Dawson in gathering his wages	00 00 06
—	Spent November 5 and 16 when news came about the victory at Preston.....	00 04 00
1717.	Paid for ringing on King George's return	00 01 00
1727.	Spent when y ^e yewtree was sett	00 01 03
1728.	Paid when Mr. Oldfield preached	00 01 00
[Other preachers during the year, Messrs. Bellis and Rigby.]		

early in the reign of Queen Mary, who in the first year of her reign directed a commission to proceed from the Duchy Court of Lancaster, enquiring what lands, tenements, bells, chalices, plate, jewels, stocks of kine, sheep, money and other things belonging to chantries in the county of Lancaster had been withheld by the several religious bodies to whom they had originally belonged, in violation of a former commission issued in the seventh year of Edward VI., directing their surrender to the King. Under the head Manchester Parish occurs the chapel of Didsbury.

¹ About this date four large silver flagons were presented to the Collegiate Church of Manchester, whereupon the four pewter ones hitherto in use were given to the chapels of Didsbury, Gorton, Newton and Stretford. The communion-plate belonging to the chapel is all comparatively modern, and consists of—

1. One small silver visiting paten, "given to the Chappel of Didsbury in the parish of Manchester, 1741."
2. One small silver visiting cup, inscribed " $I \frac{s}{+} H$ Belongs to the Chapel of Didsbury, 1743."
3. One silver paten, "the gift of Thomas Briarly of Heaton Norris to Didsbury Chapel, April 10, 1743."
4. One large silver flagon, "the gift of Joseph Boardman of Manchester to the Church of Didsbury, A.D. 1753."
5. One silver cup, the gift of Mrs. Frances Bayley to Didsbury Chapel, 1813.
6. One silver alms dish and two patens, given in 1841 by Thomas Darwell Esq. of Manchester, patron.
7. There is also a silver cup, marked A. M. with a crest, a lion rampant issuing from a coronet; supposed to be the gift of Lady Ann Mosley.

1734. Spent when we went to Withington to hear
Thomas Chorlton's will read 00 01 08
1736. Gave to Withington rush-cart 2s.
—— [Strange preachers during the year, Messrs. Norris and
Peak.]
- Paid for the serpless 12 yards of Holland £2 11s. 8d.
- Spent when I went for the wine at Easter 6d.
1743. Given June 26 to y^e ringers on y^e approach of
y^e news of y^e victory we obtained at Dettin-
gen 00 01 06
1745. Gave to y^e ringers when news was brought of
y^e conquest over y^e rebels..... 00 04 00
1746. [Strange preachers during the year, Messrs. Brooke and
Hughes.]
- Paid when I went for the wine at Easter 6d.
- Paid for hay for th' parson's horse 3d.
- Spent when the young parson [Rev. William Twyford]
first began to preach 2s.

The ancient Day School at Didsbury was erected time out of memory upon a plot of land which formed part of the Barlow Moor waste, belonging to the lord of the manor of Withington, to whom a chief-rent of three shillings per annum was formerly paid in respect of the premises. This chief-rent is now payable to the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden, the late Robert Fielden Esq. having purchased it of the said lord of the manor. It received its first endowment under the will of Sir Edward Mosley Bart., who died in 1665, the testator's intentions being carried into effect by his successor, Edward Mosley Esq.

An Indenture made the thirtieth day of December in the year 1685, between Edward Mosley of Hulme in the county of Lancaster Esq. upon the one part, and John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, alias Banks, both of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster yeomen upon the other part, — Witnesseth That the said Edward Mosley, in pursuance and for the performing of the last

will and testament of Sir Edward Mosley, late of Hough End within the said county of Lancaster, Baronet, deceased, hath granted, bargained, sold, enfeofed and confirmed, and by the present doth grant &c. unto the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, alias Banks, all that and those several closes and parcels of land commonly called and known by the names of Broom Field, the Carr Meadow, and the Water Field, with their appurtenances, situated, lying and being on the south side of the river Mersey, reputed and taken to be within the township of Didsbury in the manor of Withington in the said county of Lancaster, containing by estimation four acres of land or thereabouts, be the same more or less, heretofore in the tenure or occupation of Nicholas Linney deceased or of his assign or assigns, and now in the possession of the said Edward Mosley or of his assign or undertenant, together with all ways, advantages, &c. unto the same belonging (except only common of pasture and turbary), To have and to hold the said closes and premises to them the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley their heirs and assigns for ever, to the uses, intents and purposes that the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley their heirs and assigns shall and will permit the profits thereof to be employed for the maintenance of a schoolmaster at Didsbury for ever, so as the same schoolmaster be such as is approved of and comes in there by the consent and good liking of the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns, lords of the manor of Withington aforesaid, yielding and paying therefor yearly unto the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns for ever one pepper-corn at the feast of St. Martin the bishop in winter, if the same be demanded, and also doing and performing all such suit and service to the courts of the said Edward Mosley his heirs and assigns for the manor of Withington, as other tenants of the manor use to do. And the said Edward Mosley doth for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators covenant and agree to and with the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley, that the said Edward Mosley and every other person and persons lawfully claiming the premises . . .

[illegible]. And the said Edward Mosley doth further by these presents institute and appoint his trusty and well-beloved William Twyford and Richard Blomeley, servants of the said Edward Mosley, his true and lawful attorneys jointly and severally for him and in his name to enter into the said lands aforesaid or into any part thereof in the name of the whole, and thereof quiet and peaceable possession and seisin to take, and afterwards the same to make and deliver unto the said John Rudd and Thomas Blomeley according to the true effect and meaning of these presents: and all and whatsoever the attorneys shall do as concerneth the premises the said Edward Mosley doth by these presents ratify and allow as fully and as absolutely as if he the said Edward Mosley were personally present. — In witness whereof the parties abovesaid interchangeably have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

On the death of the trustees first nominated none were elected to succeed them, nor was any new conveyance of the premises made; and in 1826, when the Charity Commissioners reported, the legal estate was found vested in John Rudd of Didsbury, the great grandson and heir of John Rudd who is mentioned in the above recited deed, he having survived his co-trustee Thomas Blomiley. The land thus bequeathed was let (in 1825) at an annual rent of £37, the master receiving also the benefit of other charities given for the support of a schoolmaster, viz. £4 from the charity of Sir Edward Mosley Knt., £1 from Chorlton's, and £1 from Hampson's charity. The appointment of master was at that time claimed by the Fielden family, principal landowners in the township; and the commissioners in the absence of all documentary evidence to the contrary, and with proof before them that the right of nominating a master had been repeatedly exercised by them without opposition, admitted their claim, remarking however at the same time that as the charity of Sir Edward Mosley is expressly limited to such schoolmaster as shall come in with the consent of the lord of the manor of Withington, his approval is necessary to entitle the

master so appointed to the benefit of that charity. Formerly, however, the uncontrolled appointment was, as it seems, vested in the lord of the manor. In 1699 William Garnett, on resigning the school, submitted one Henry Smith to the Bishop of Chester for a license to hold it,—the right of nomination having been made over to him (Garnett) for his life by Sir Edward Mosley then lately deceased, and confirmed to him “under the hand and seal of the worshipful Sir John Bland Knt. Bart., now lord of our manor;” and in 1722 a similar license was granted by the Bishop to Thomas Hudson on the nomination of Lady Ann Bland. In 1831 a new schoolroom was erected adjoining the old one, which was now converted into a residence for the master; and the entire premises were conveyed from Rudd, the representative of the surviving trustee mentioned in the deed, to certain trustees, one of whom was Mr. Fielden. In 1843 an infant-school was added, a school-room and a cottage for the teacher being erected at the same time; towards this object Joseph Birley of Didsbury Esq. contributed £150, and the National Society £50. In 1851 a new conveyance of the schools was made by Mr. Fielden to the Rev. W. J. Kidd, Hugh Birley, James Dorrington, and William Hobbs, Esqrs. Previous to the year 1831 the school-house had been used on Sundays for the purposes of a Sunday school on payment of fifty-two shillings per annum, but in that year an agreement was entered into between the Sunday school committee and other inhabitants on the one part, and Robert Fielden Esq., John Rudd and Joseph Rudd on the other part, which secures the use of the school premises exclusively on every Sunday for ever as a Sunday school for the instruction of the children within the chapelry of Didsbury who are brought up in the religious principles of the Established Church of England. By the said deed Mr. Fielden renounces also the right of appointing the master which is vested in the four trustees already enumerated and their successors for ever.

The Charities connected with the chapelry and township are as follows :—

1. CHARITY OF SIR EDWARD MOSLEY KNT.

Sir Edward Mosley Knt., by Will bearing date May 24, 1695, as appears from a recital contained in an indenture bearing date January 25, 1753, charged his manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, in the county of Lancaster, with the payment of the yearly sum of £4 to the churchwardens of the church of Didsbury, for the use of the poor of Withington and Heaton Norris; and also with the payment of the like sum of £4 yearly to a schoolmaster of Didsbury, until some lands of the like value were settled upon them for ever.

The indenture from which the above abstract is taken, and which was produced before the commissioners in 1826 by Robert Fielden Esq., was made between William Fenwick Esq., a mortgagee in fee of the premises therein mentioned of the first part, Sir John Bland Bart. of the second part, and Richard Broome and William Broome of the third part; whereby, after reciting the above-mentioned devises, and that the said Sir John Bland was desirous of vesting the premises therein after-mentioned in the said parties of the third part, and their heirs, in trust, to indemnify the said manors from the payment of the said two yearly sums; the said William Fenwick, at the request of the said Sir John Bland, granted to the said Richard and William Broome and their heirs a messuage or tenement and farm, with the lands and grounds thereto belonging, in the parish of Manchester, then or late in the occupation of John Shuttleworth, at the yearly rent of £14, to the intent that they should stand seised thereof as trustees for the indemnification of the said manors against the said yearly sums, provided that until default should be made in the payment of the said yearly sums, the said parties of the third part should permit the said Sir John Bland and his heirs to receive the rents and profits of the said premises.

Whether this deed was ever revoked or not does not appear, but the two annual sums of £4 are now paid by Robert Fielden Esq. in respect of such parts of his estate as were formerly parcel of the manor of Withington. One of these sums is paid by Mr. Fielden

to the schoolmaster of Didsbury school as already mentioned. The other sum of £4 is paid to the churchwardens of Didsbury, for the time being, by whom it is distributed amongst poor persons not receiving relief in the five following townships, every year in rotation, viz., in Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, Heaton Norris and Chorlton-with-Hardy, all of which townships are within the manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, the three first-mentioned being in the chapelry of Didsbury. There are four other townships in the manor of Withington, viz., Moss-side, Rusholme, Denton-with-Haughton and Levenshulme, and it does not appear upon what principle, as the distribution is extended beyond the townships of Withington and Heaton Norris, the other townships within the manor of Withington are excluded. — [*Commissioners' Report*, vol. xvi. pp. 193, 194.]

2. CHORLTON'S CHARITY.

Thomas Chorlton, by Will bearing date May 27, 1728, charged all his messuages, lands and premises wherein he dwelt at Grundy Hill with the payment of the clear yearly sum of £5, to commence from the death of the survivor of his wife, or sister Mary, to the following uses, viz., £4, part thereof to the chapelwardens of Didsbury for the time being for ever, to be by them laid out in bread to be given weekly in Didsbury chapel on Sunday to the most poor and indigent people living in and belonging to the townships of Heaton Norris, Didsbury, Withington and Burnage, such as should come frequently to hear divine service at the said chapel; and the sum of twenty shillings, residue of the said sum of £5, to the schoolmaster for the time being, of the school-house at Barlow Moor End. Mr. John Thorniley, as the proprietor of an estate called Grundy Hill, in the township of Heaton Norris, pays £4 per annum to the chapelwardens, which sum, with the produce of Boardman's charity hereafter mentioned, is by them laid out in bread, a portion of which is distributed on every Sunday to such poor persons of the four townships mentioned in the will of the testator as attend divine service at Didsbury chapel.

The remaining £1 is paid to the schoolmaster of Didsbury school as already mentioned. — [*Ib.* p. 194.]

3. BOARDMAN'S CHARITY.

Sergeant Boardman, by will bearing date March 4, 1768, gave to Edward Place, James Greatrix and his wife Dorothy Boardman £50 on trust, that they should invest the same in the purchase of a yearly rent-charge or of bank-stock, and thereupon settle the said rent-charge or the said stock to the use of the minister and chapelwardens of the ancient chapel of Didsbury in the parish of Manchester, called Didsbury church, for the time being; the annual produce thereof to be by them laid out and given in bread in Didsbury chapel on every Sunday, to such of the most poor and indigent people living in and belonging to the several townships of Didsbury, Withington, Heaton Norris and Burnage, such as should come frequently to hear divine service at Didsbury chapel, as they in their discretion should think fit.¹

The above sum was laid out in the purchase of £102 11s. 2d. stock, in the three per cent consols, now standing in the name of the Rev. John Newton. The dividends, amounting to £3 1s. 6d. per annum, are received by Messrs. Jones and Loyd, bankers of Manchester, by whom they are paid to the chapelwardens, and bestowed in the manner already stated in the account of the preceding charity. — [*Ib.* pp. 194, 195.]

4. BLAND AND LINNEY'S CHARITY.

By Indentures of Lease and Release, bearing date September 28 and 29, 1775, between William Broome the elder of the one

¹ The testator's intentions were all but frustrated by the too great precipitancy of the acting executor Mr. Edward Place, who paid over to the residuary legatee the residue of the testator's effects without having first discharged this legacy. On being applied to, Mr. Place justified its continued non-payment by a reference to the statute of Mortmain (9 George II. cap. 36.) A case was drawn up and submitted to Mr. Arderne, who gave his opinion in favour of the poor. After much delay and the obtaining of a second legal opinion which confirmed the first, the bequest was at length paid.

part, and the Rev. William Twyford clerk, James Goolden, Richard Watson and four others of the other part, — It is witnessed, that in consideration of £100 (being the sum given by Dame Ann Bland, to be placed at interest or invested in the purchase of land, the yearly produce thereof to be applied for the benefit of poor housekeepers within the townships of Withington, Didsbury, Chorlton, Burnage and Heaton Norris), and also of the sum of £100 (being a legacy bequeathed by the will of Thomas Linney, to be invested in parliamentary funds or other securities, and the produce thereof paid from time to time amongst such poor of the parish of Didsbury as were thereafter particularly described), the said William Broome granted to the said William Twyford and others of the second part their heirs and assigns, a close of meadow land situate in Didsbury, called Twyford's Wharth, containing by estimation two acres of seven yards to the perch, bounded as therein described, upon trust, that they should receive the clear rents and profits thereof, and apply the same as follows, viz., one moiety thereof amongst such poor housekeepers belonging to or residing within the said several townships alternately as should not be under the common relief of alms, and who by sickness or any other indisposition, or accident, or age, or a numerous family, should be deemed by the said trustees most proper objects to receive the same, according to the intent of the said Dame Ann Bland; and the other moiety to the said William Twyford clerk, and the said James Goolden and William Watson, minister and churchwardens of the chapel of Didsbury, and their successors, upon trust, to be by them applied yearly amongst such poor of Didsbury aforesaid, as should not be under the common relief of alms, and who by sickness, accident, age, or a numerous family, should be deemed by the said minister and churchwardens and their successors to be the most proper objects to receive the same, according to the will of the said Thomas Linney, with a power to the survivors of appointing new trustees when their number should be reduced to three.

The trustees mentioned in the above abstracted deed, of whom

Richard Watson was the survivor, being all dead, the churchwardens have had the management of the charity. The close containing about two acres, customary measure, is in the occupation of Joseph Reddish as yearly tenant at the rent of £13, which is considered to be its fair value.

The rent is paid to the churchwardens, who dispose of the same usually in the purchase of clothing or blankets, which they distribute in the course of the winter amongst poor householders not receiving parochial relief. The distribution of one moiety is confined to the township of Didsbury; the other moiety is disposed of in the townships of Didsbury, Withington, Burnage, Chorlton and Heaton Norris, every year in rotation. — [*Ib.* p. 195.]

5. HAMPSON'S CHARITY.

By Indenture bearing date August 17, 1811, between Mary Broome, widow of William Broome the surviving executor of William Broome, who was the surviving executor of Edward Hampson deceased of the one part and Robert Fielden Esq. of the other part, reciting that Edward Hampson, by will dated February 24, 1756, directed his executors to keep out at interest the sum of £400, and to pay the interest thereof to his wife during her widowhood, but in case she should marry, to pay to her the yearly sum of £5 only, and the surplus to certain legatees therein named; and that after the decease of his said wife he thereby gave certain legacies, to be paid out of the said sum of £400, and the residue thereof to his executors, to be applied to the several uses mentioned in a paper to his will annexed; and further reciting that by the paper annexed to the said will, and dated the same day, the said testator directed that his executors should dispose of the residue of the said sum of £400, either in the purchase of lands or otherwise, as to them should seem meet, the income thereof to be applied as follows: to wit — to the preaching minister at Didsbury £1; to the schoolmaster of Didsbury £1; to the singers of Didsbury Chapel £1; and the remainder to such further uses as his said executors should think fit; and further

reciting that the said residué amounted to £100 and no more, and that the said sum of £100 had come to the hands of the said Mary Broome, and that she was desirous to pay that sum for the uses aforesaid to the said Robert Fielden, who had agreed to take the same; the said Robert Fielden, in consideration of the said sum of £100 paid to him by the said Mary Broome, covenanted for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, to dispose of the said sum according to the trusts declared in the will of the said Edward Hampson, and also to indemnify the said Mary Broome from the payment of the said sum or the interest thereof.

The deed, of which the above is an abstract, is in the possession of Robert Fielden Esq., in whose hands the sum of £100 still remains. But as this deed is the only security given for the money, we (the commissioners) suggested to him the propriety of at least giving a copy thereof to the officers of the township, with an acknowledgment that the original was in his custody.

For the sum of £100 Mr. Fielden has hitherto paid interest at the rate of five per cent. He stated however that it was his intention to place the money out as soon as an opportunity should occur.

The three several yearly sums of £1 are paid as directed by the testator; and Mr. Fielden states that he has distributed £2 annually at Christmas with other money from his own private funds, principally in clothing, amongst poor persons within the chapelry of Didsbury.

It seems desirable that an account should be kept of the distribution to the poor, distinct from the money disposed of by Mr. Fielden from his private funds. — [*Ib.* p. 196.]

6. FIELDEN'S CHARITY.

By Indenture bearing date March 25, 1835, Sarah Fielden of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster, relict and widow of Robert Fielden late of the same place Esquire, deceased, assigned unto Oswald Fielden, his executors, administrators and assigns the sum of one hundred pounds on trust, that the said Oswald Fielden, his

executors &c. shall upon the first Monday in December every year pay and apply the interest, dividends and annual produce thereof in furnishing and providing six such poor persons, being inhabitants of the village of Didsbury in the county of Lancaster, as the clergyman of the church thereof shall appoint, with such quantities of coals as he may order and direct.

The above-named amount is lent on mortgage to the trustees of the Manchester and Wilmslow turnpike road, and the interest applied according to the directions given in the deed.

TOWNSHIP OF WITHINGTON.

This township, situated within the chapelry of Didsbury, lies three miles and a half south of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Moss-side, on the south by Didsbury, on the east by Rusholme and Burnage, and on the west by Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

It derives its name most probably from one of its ancient characteristic features — the marshy nature of its soil — being, as its name denotes, the town or hamlet of the *withe* or willow, which from the peculiarity of soil adverted to flourished there in great abundance. Kemble however, a great authority in such matters, derives it from the Saxon patronymic *Widingas*.

Withington possessed the style and title of a manor and had its corresponding privileges; the limits of the manor greatly exceeded those of the township, embracing the hamlets of Withington, Didsbury, Burnage, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Moss-side, Rusholme, Denton, Haughton and Levenshulme. Its orthography is not less unsettled than is that of Didsbury, appearing in early records as Withton, Witheton, Witinton, Withintone, Whittinton, Whythynton, Wethington, Withrington, &c.

In the reign of Edward I. the Abbot of Cokersand was cited to appear before the King to show by what authority he claimed waifs, ingfangenthef (the judging of a thief arraigned within the lord's fee), and the assize of bread and ale in Withington and Chorlton, and also to exhibit the ground of the exemption he now claimed for himself and his monks from fines and amercements appertaining to the Crown, and for which exemption no license was known to exist. His plea was not admitted.¹

¹ Abbas de Cokersaund sum' fuit ad respondend. d'no Regi quo waranto clam' h're weyf infangenthef & emendas assie panis & c'vis fracte in . . . Cherlton, Wythington &c. et quo warranto clam' esse quietus de com'ibus finibus & amerciamentis com' & de sectis comitatuū & wapentach' pro se & hom'ibus suis de villis predictis quo ad coronam & dignitatem d'ni Regis p'tinent sine licencia & voluntate ip'ius d'ni Regis & p'genitor' suor' Regum Angl. — *Placita de Quo Warranto Rolls*, p. 379.

From the Inquisition p. m. of Robert Grelle in the 10 Edward I. (1281) we learn that the said Robert died seised of Withrington township and also of Manchester and its church. During his lifetime he granted to Matthew de Hathersage, in consideration of the service of one knight's fee, the manor of Withrington, wholly or in part held by himself from Ferrars, Earl of Derby, the latter being tenant in chief of the King.¹ The names of two other proprietors at this early period have reached us, namely, Adam de Iseni, who held by military service five carucates of land in Withrington, which he gave to Gilbert, son of Reinfridus, and secondly, the heir of Robert, son of Gilmuth, who in this reign held one carucate of land for which he paid forty pence.²

Early in the fourteenth century the family of Norris, holding lands in the adjacent township of Heaton Norris, were also landed proprietors in Withrington. William le Norreis in 1308 granted to his brother Alexander his lands &c. in Withrington.³ About this time certain estates in the township were in the possession of the Barlows of Barlow Hall in Chorlton. Henry, son of Alexander de Barlow, gave in 1311 to William de Honford lands &c. in the town of Withinton, which being inherited by his successors were transmitted by Henry de Honford to his son Richard. To this latter deed of conveyance there is no date affixed, but it is attested by Geoffrey de Chetham, at that time seneschal of Manchester, Hugh de Phitun, Robert de Hulton, Richard de Trafford, and Robert de Redish.⁴ These lands were probably either con-

¹ Mathus de Hav'seg' tenet unū feodū milit' in Wythinton de feodo Thom' le Gretley, & ip'e de feodo com' de Ferrar' & ip'e in capite de d'no Rege. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Adam de Iseni tenet v carue' terre in Wythington p' servie' militare quas dedit Gilb'to fil' Reinfridi. Heres Rob'ti filii Gilmuth' ten' unā carue' terre in Wytington & reddit p' annū xl den. — *Testa de Nevill*.

³ Ego W^s le Norreis dedi Alex'o fr'i meo ten'ta mea in Withinton. Dat. ap^d Denton 2 Edw. II. (1308). — *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 149.

⁴ Univ' sis &c. Henr' f. Alex' de Barlow cone' W^o de Honford jus &c. in villa de Withinton. Test' Henr' de Trafford mil'; Galfr' de Chaderton; Ric' de Moston; Rog' de Barlow &c. Dat. ap^d Manchest' 5 Edw. II. (1311). *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 165.

Ego Henr' de Honford dedi Ric'o fil' meo ter' in vil' de Withinton. Test'

veyed in trust or were but a part of the Barlow estate in the township, for by a deed executed 3rd December, 6 Edward IV. (1466), Nicholas Barlow conveys to Alexander Barlow his son all his lands &c. in Withington and elsewhere in Lancashire which lately appertained to his father John de Barlow;¹ and a century and a half later we have evidence of the continued interest of this family in the township in the Inquisition p. m. of Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow Hall 18 James I. (1620.)

In 1364-5 Roger de Mamcester and Geoffrey de Bexwyck, chaplains of Manchester, convey to Thurstan de Holand certain messuages in Wythington.²

Withington, though in itself a manor, was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester, and was required to contribute towards the maintenance of the lord's bailiff and his four under-bailiffs in their general oversight of the manor.

From the extent and survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in 1322, it appears that in the lord's wood at Heton [Norres] there are seventy acres of pasture in common for the tenants of Heton and Withington and their members, with six weeks' time of pannage.

The lord of Withington was by ancient tenure bound to assist the lord of Manchester in the administration of justice in his several manor-courts, which from their distance apart rendered the presence of the chief lord in person at times impossible. This obligation as it affects Withington is recited as early as the reign of Henry III., and is then declared as "ancient service."³

Towards the close of the reign of Henry III. the Lancashire estates of the Hathersages passed by descent to the Longfords of Longford, county of Derby, on the marriage of Sir Nigel de Long-

Galfr' de Chetham t'nc sen^{ro} de Mancestr; D'no Hug' de Phitun; Rob' de Hulton; Ric' de Trafford; Rob. de Redish. — *Harl. MSS.* 2112 fo. 165.

¹ Ego Nicholl' Barlow dedi Alex'o Barlow f. meo o'ia ten' ter' &c. q' nuper fuer' Jō de Barlow p'ris mei in Withington seu alibi in co' Lanc. Dat. 3 Dec. 6 Edw. IV. (1466). — *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fo. 174.

² *Foundations in Manchester*, vol. iv. p. 109.

³ Math's fil' Will'i & Rog'us fil' Will'i tenēt feodū uni' milit' de Rob'to Gredle in Wythinton de antiquitate & debent invenire j judicē d'no Regi. — *Testa de Nevill*.

ford with Cecilia, daughter and coheirress of Matthew de Hathersage. The Longfords, as did their predecessors the Hathersages, continued to hold their lands as tenants of the Wests, Lords De la Warre, themselves tenants in capite. An Inquisition p. m., taken in the 22 Edward IV. (1482) on the death of Richard West, Lord De la Warre, finds the said Richard seised at the time of his death in his demesne as of fee of the manor of Manchester, with the hamlets of Withington, Denton, Openshagh, Cleyton, Ard-wike, Blakeley and Gorton. The issue of this marriage with the coheirress of the Hathersages was two sons, Oliver and William—the former of whom married, according to Dodsworth, Agnes, the daughter of Ralph de Horbury (marriage covenant dated 44 Henry III.), and dying in the 12 Edward I., as appears from his Inquisition p. m. of that date, was succeeded by his son John, then in his minority. William de Longford, the younger brother of Oliver, was prior of the monastery of Kenilworth.

In an enumeration of the Duke of Lancaster's tenants in 1311 it is declared that Nicholas de Longford holds of the lord of Manchester one knight's fee in Withington, the same which Matthew de Hathersage once possessed.

Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., whose Inquisition p. m. is dated 37 Edward III. (1373), married Alice, daughter and coheirress of Sir Roger Deyncourt Knt. At his death he was found seised of the manor of Withington, which he held from Lord De la Warre.

Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., grandson of the preceding, was high sheriff of Lancashire in the 1 Henry V. (1413.) He accompanied the King in his invasion of France, and fought by his side at the battle of Agincourt in 1415.¹ He died in the following year. The name of his wife as it appears in the annexed pedigree, and is confirmed in a descent of the family given by Dodsworth (vol. lxxxii. fol. 16), was Joan Warren, whereas in the inquisition she is styled Alice, and Dodsworth himself elsewhere (vol. lxxxvii. fo. 92) calls her by the latter name,—a statement reconcileable with the supposition that Sir Nicholas was twice married. On the 24th March 4 Henry V. (1416) Sir John de Stanley Knt. discovers through his own offi-

¹ *Harl. MS.* 72.

cials, on the King's behalf, that Sir Nicholas de Longford, then recently deceased, held from the King in capite as of the duchy of Lancaster the manor of Withington, whereof he was seised on the day of his death, which right of the King in the manor aforesaid had hitherto been concealed. The King, in recompense of the labour and trouble of the said Sir John in that behalf, committed to him, by writ of mainprise of Sir Henry le Norreys and Thomas de Bradshaw of Haigh, the custody of the aforesaid manor, except lands and rents to the yearly value of twenty marks which Alice, late wife of the above named Nicholas, has for the term of her life out of the said manor by grant from Sir Nicholas de Longford Knt., father of the aforesaid Nicholas, and excepting also the dower of the said Alice, and also lands and rents to the annual value of twenty marks which Ralph, son and heir of the aforesaid Nicholas the younger and Margaret his wife have in the said manor for the term of their lives, — the said Sir John Stanley to hold the same until the heir reaches his full age, rendering therefor to the King an annual tribute of thirty-five marks.¹

Sir Ralph Longford Knt., son and heir of Sir Nicholas Longford the younger, died, as appears from his Inquisition p. m., in the 10 Henry VI. (1431); he was seised at his death of the manor of Withington, which he held of Reginald West, Lord De la Warre. In the pedigree annexed, as also in that given by Dodsworth (vol. lxxxii. fol. 16), Sir Ralph Longford is represented as marrying Margaret Melton, whilst elsewhere, in his manuscript extracts from the Archbishops' Registers at York (Dodsworth, vol. xxviii.

¹ Joh'es de Stanley mil' cus'tibus suis p'priis fecit inveniri pro Rege q'd Nich'us de Longford ch'r def^{us} ten' de Rege in cap' ut de Duc' suo Lanc' maner' de Wythington die quo ob' q'd jus D'ni Regis in maner' p'd'c'o huc usq. fuit conclatum. Rex in recompensacōem expensar' & assidui laboris p'd'c'i Joh'is in hac p'te commisit eid' Joh'i p' manucap' Henr. le Norreys ch'r & Tho. de Bradschagh de Haghe, custod' maner' p'd'c'i cū p'tin' except' 20 m'catis t're & red' p' an. q's Alicia que fuit ux' p'd'c'i Nich'i hēt ad term' vite in eod' maner' ex concess' Nich'i de L. mil' p'ris p'd'c'i Nich'i & except' dote ejusd' Alic' & except' 20 m'catis t're & red' p' an. q's Rad'us f. & h. p'd'c'i Nich'i filii & Margareta uxor ejus tenent ad vitam eor'd' in p'd'c'o maner' usq' ad plen' æt. p'd'c'i hæ'd', redd' inde nob' 35 m'cas p' an. Dat. 24 M'tii 4 H. 5. — *Dodsworth*, vol. lxxxvii, fo. 92.

fol. 242), it is said "*Nichūs* Langford miles duxit in uxēm Margaretam Melton in eccliā de Aston Oct. 1, 1472."

Sir Ralph Longford was followed by a son bearing the same name, who died, 1 February 5 Henry VIII. (1513) seized of the manors of Withington and The Hough, and also of lands in Didsbury, having married Isabel, daughter of Sir Thomas Ferrers Knt. His son Nicholas married Margery, daughter of Sir Edmund Trafford of Trafford Knt., and dying in his father's lifetime left a son Ralph, who succeeded to the estates on the death of his grandfather in 1513, being then four years of age. Ralph Longford Esq. married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Anthony Fitzherbert Knt., and at his death left his estates to his son Nicholas, the last heir male of the family, who died without issue in the year 1610. His sisters and coheiresses, Elizabeth and Matilda, married — the one Humphrey Dethick of Newhall Esq., and the other first Sir George Vernon of Haddon, county of Derby, Knt., and secondly, Francis Hastings Esq.

The manor of Withington, which, notwithstanding Dodsworth's assertion to the contrary, the Longfords held by subinfeudation of the Grelles and Wests, the successive lords in capite, and not directly from the King, remained in the family until the close of the sixteenth century, when it passed by purchase to Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt.

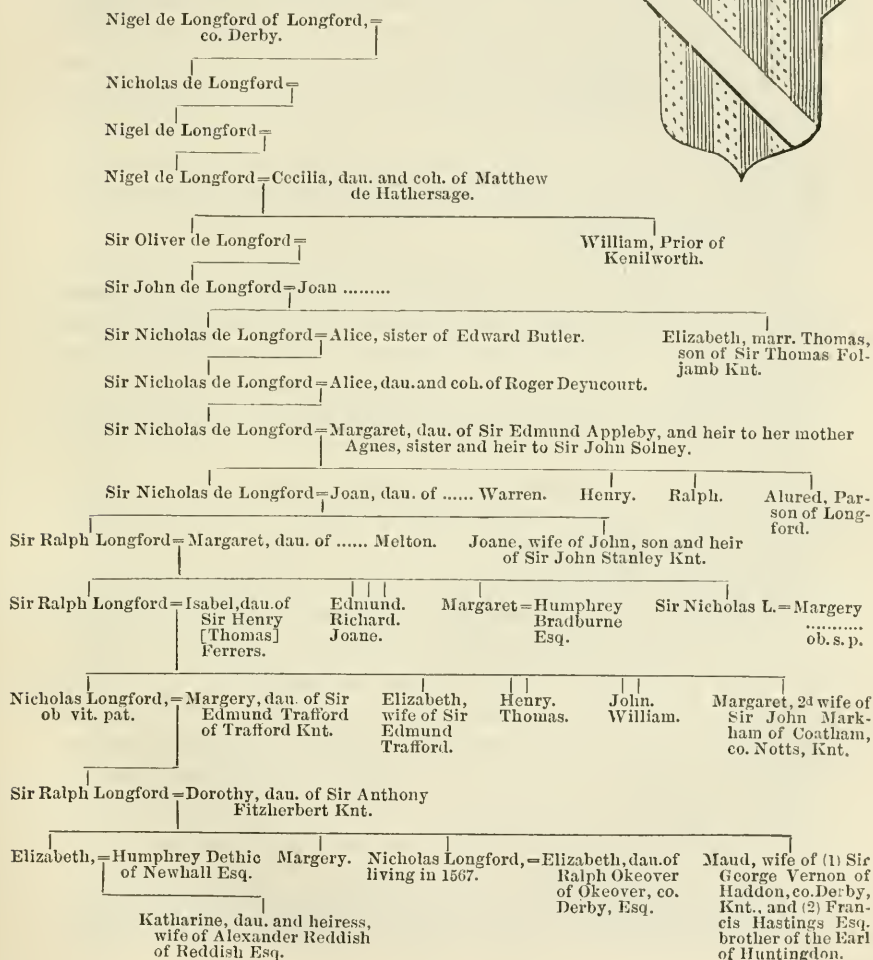
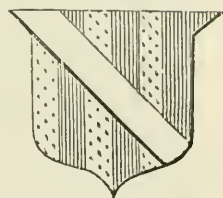
Old Hall, or The Hough, situated about the centre of the township at the eastern extremity of Hough End Clough, was a seat of the Longfords, being the ancient manor-house. The family, it is conjectured, resided chiefly on their other estates, but their occasional residence here is inferred from a casual remark of Hollingworth, when speaking of "Thomas Langford the famous historian, a Dominican friar, of Chelmsford in Essex," he describes him as "supposed to be one of the Langfords of The Hough."¹ The house, which is of brick, has been rebuilt, and is now converted into a farm-house; it was anciently surrounded by a moat which in part remains, the only evidence of its former pretensions, the buildings themselves being entirely modern.

¹ Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, p. 35.

Longford

of Longford co. Derby, and of The Wough co. Lanc.

(From *Visitation of Derbyshire* by William Flower, Norroy, and Robert Glover, Portcullis, 1569;
with some additions by Ralph Brooke, &c.—*Hart. MS.* 806, fol. 10.)



Not less ancient than the Hathersages and Longfords is the family of Withington, which takes its name from this township.

Of the existence in early times of a family thus designated we are assured on the testimony of ancient records connected with the county. Thomas de Grelle, in an undated deed, grants to Richard de Wythinton and his heirs seven acres of land in Swinton, within the following limits, beginning where Tordalesik falls into Caldebroke, and so ascending Caldebroke as far as the well dug in the direction of Preestesplatteford, and so following to another well, and so from that other well across to the ditch of Roger clerk of Maunton, except three roods at the entrance and outlet, and so descending to the hay of Richard the Rhymer, and so following the said hay into Caldebroke.¹

By a deed executed on the day of St. Philip and St. James 1284, Alice de Wythyngton, late wife of Richard de Wythyngton, releases to the Abbot of Stanlawe, amongst other lands her right and title to eight acres called Wythynton-heye beyond the boundary of Wythynton.² And we have additional evidence of the fact in an undated quit-claim from John de Wythynton of certain lands in Westwood.³

Thomas de Wythington held lands of Robert de Grelle in the reign of Edward I., by military service, the tenure even then declared to be of ancient date.⁴

The name of William son of Wulfrith de Withinton also occurs in an undated deed of the Lightbowne family (*Harl. MSS.* 2,112, fo. 165) as contesting with Adam brother of Gospatric de Chorlton the claim of the latter to lands in the township.

With such scanty memorials it is not easy to connect the several names thus given; but they serve nevertheless to attest the fact that such a family existed in the township at a very early period, where even the name still lingers.

Holt Hall or The Holte in Withington was anciently a seat of

¹ *Coucher Book of Whalley*, pp. 910, 911. ² *Ib.* pp. 911, 912. ³ *Ib.* p. 912.

⁴ Thomas de Wythington tenet feod' di' milit' de eod' Rob'to [Grelle] de antiquitate. — *Testa de Nevill*.

the Bamford family, whose chief estate was at Bamford near Middleton, in the same county. Holt Wood, in the north-west corner of the township, near to the Independent College, seems to have been a portion of the original demesne. At what time and under what circumstances they first obtained a settlement in the township there is now no evidence to show. Richard de Bamford held lands in Withington, Barton, Middleton, Spotland, Bury, &c., in the 25 Henry VI. (1446); shortly after which date they married into the influential local family of Longford. An indenture made the 16th November in the 18 Edward IV. (1478) between Sir Nicholas Longford Knt. and Martin Bamford gent. witnesses "yt hit is coveñnted and agrede by twene the seid pties that John soñ and heire of the seid Bartyne shall by the g^oce of God be fore the fest of Seynt Andrewe the Appostell next comyng wedd and take to wyff Marg^eie Longforth suster unto the seid S^r Nicholl; and the seid Marg^eie shall by the g^oce of God wedde and take to husbond the seid John before the seid fest: And the seid Bartyne g^ounteth by this p^ontes that he shall make or cause to be made withyn xl daies after the seid mariage unto the seid John and Marg^eie a sure sufficient and lawfull astate of landes and teñtes to the yerly value of xl^s of lawfull money of England ov^r all charges and rep^oses, in Gorton, called the xl acres to have and to hold unto the seid John and Marg^eie and to the heires by twene theym too lawfully begotan, the remaynder y^of to the righte heires of the seid John the son; and also the same Bartyne g^ounteth by y^{se} p^ontes yt all oder his landes and teñtes that he hath or any oder man to his use hath shall immediately after his decesse remayne and come unto the seid John the son and his heires in fe symple or fe taill; and also the seid Bartyne g^ounteth by y^{is} p^ontes yt he shall leeff unto the seid John his son in contyne and immediately after his decesse landes and teñtes to the yerly valewe of viij^{li} and all charges the which shall come to the seid John and to his heires without the xl^s of tylebrod be fore g^ounted: Also the same Bartyne g^ounteth v^{li} duryng his liffe; he shall fynd the seid John his son and Marg^eie mete and drynk sufficient, and a cham-

ber conveyent for his seid son and Marg^oie his wiffe to rest yn and to be logged yn; ffor the which mariage and coveñtes to be kepte on the pte of the seid Bartyn the seid S^r Nicholl g^unteth to pay unto the seid Bartyn xx markes in man^o and forme as ffoloweth, that is to say, the day of mariage vj^{li} xij^s iij^d and v markes at the fest of seynt John Baptist next comyng, and v markes at the fest of seynt Martyn in wyntⁿ then next ffolowyng, and for the payment of this x markes at the seid fest of seynt John and seynt Martyn the seid S^r Nicholl Longforth, Rauffe Longforth his broder and Eliece of Prestwich have bounden theym in ij obliḡ as hit appereth by the same; and for all the solemities a bove seid to be kepte and pformed on the pte of the seid Bartyne, the same Bartyne, John Platte and Wiff Birche have bounden theym unto the seid S^r Nich. in an obliḡ of clⁱ like as the same obliḡ specifieth. It wisse of all the seid solemities as well the seid S^r Nicholl Longforthe Knyghte as the seid Bartyne be fore Thomas fflytoñ and and oder entchaungeable have set herunto y^r seales the day and yere a bove seid.”

There is also another marriage-covenant dated 8th May 10 Henry VIII. (1518) between George Bamford of the Holte in the county of Lancaster gent. and Richard Scolfeld of Stakehill in the same county gent., which witnesses the intended marriage of John Bamford son and heir of the said George, and Margaret Scolfeld daughter of the said Richard; the marriage to take place “before the ffeste of seynt Marten in wyntⁿ next ensuing.” The wife’s jointure is specified, and consisted of a certain messuage with its appurtenances in Rusholme, then in the occupation of Richard Hunt; a certain close called Wode hedde, with the woods thereunto belonging, situated in Holt; a certain close called Coltheys in Holt aforesaid; a meadow called Goselache meadow in Rusholme; and half an acre of land in Rusholme meadow. A covenant of the same date intimates also the approaching marriage of Robert Scolfeld, son and heir of the above-named Richard, with Jenet Bamford, daughter of the said George Bamford.

John Bamford Esq., who died August 20, 1557, was the last

heir male who held the Withington estates of his family. He died leaving an only daughter his heiress, afterwards the wife of George Birch of Birch gent., to whom at his death they were bequeathed. His inquisition post mortem was taken at Wigan on Thursday the second of July 4 Elizabeth (1561), before Ralph Worsley Esq. eschaetor, under the oath of John Bradshaw Esq., William Radcliffe gent., Richard Hunt gent., Thomas Assheton gent., George Latham gent., Adam Pilkington gent., Roger Brownelawe gent., John Taylor gent., Alexander Wardle gent., Ralph Cudworth gent., Richard Ramsbotham gent., Lawrence Rostherne gent., and Thomas Wood gent. It commences by reciting the marriage-settlement of John Bamford and Margaret Scolfeld, dated the 10 Henry VIII. It proceeds to state that the said John Bamford was seised the day of his death in his demesne as of fee, of and in one capital messuage called Holt Hall, fifteen acres of land, twelve acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, six acres of wood, twenty-four acres of gorse-land and heath-land, with their appurtenances, situated in Rusholme within Withington, in the county of Lancaster; one messuage, twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture and twenty acres of moor-land, with their appurtenances, in Spotland, in the county aforesaid; one messuage, sixteen acres of land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture, with their appurtenances, called Bamford, in Middleton in the county aforesaid; and twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture, called the Forty Acres, in Gorton, within Manchester, in the county aforesaid. Then follow the particulars of the dower of Anne, wife of Thomas Birch, and late wife of the above-named John Bamford. The jurors declare on oath that the aforesaid capital messuage called Holte Hall, and the other premises in Rusholme and Holt within Withington, are held, and at the time of the death of the aforesaid John Bamford were held, of and from Nicholas Longford Esq. as of his manor of Hough, in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of twelvenpence; and that the said messuage, lands and tenements in Rusholme and Holt, granted as aforesaid to the

use of the said Margaret, are worth forty shillings per annum; and that the said lands &c. in Withington, granted to the said Thomas Birch and Anne his wife, are worth twenty shillings per annum; and that the remainder of the lands, tenements, &c., in Rusholme, Holt, and Withington are worth forty shillings. They say, moreover, on oath that the aforesaid messuages &c. in Spotland at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Robert Holte Esq. lately deceased and Robert Savell Esq. by military service, namely, by the hundredth part of a knight's fee; and that the same premises in Spotland are now held from Charles Holte Esq., son and heir of the aforesaid Robert Holte, and are at present in the custody of the queen by reason of the minority of the said Charles Holte, and that they are worth twenty-three shillings and fourpence per annum. They also say that the aforesaid messuages, lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, in Middleton, called Bamford, are held and at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Richard Assheton Esq. in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of [blank in the inquisition], and are worth twenty shillings per annum. They say that the said lands, tenements &c., with their appurtenances, called the Forty Acres, situated in Gorton in the aforesaid county, are held and at the time of the death of the said John Bamford were held from Sir John Guildford Knt. and Thomas Bishop Esq., executors of Sir Thomas West, late Lord De la Warre, as of his manor of Manchester, in soccage, namely, by fealty and an annual rent of twelvepence, and are worth forty shillings per annum. And they further say on oath that the said John Bamford named in this writ died on the twentieth day of August, in the fifth and sixth year of the reign of Philip and Mary, and that Anne Bamford is his daughter and next heir, and that at the date of the taking of this inquisition she was of the age of five years and one month. The jurors also say on oath that the said John Bamford had no other manors, messuages, lands or tenements in the said county of Lancaster on the day of his death other than as is aforesaid.

On the death of John Bamford Esq., the party named in the above inquisition, dissensions arose touching the lawful inheritance of his lands. These, for the most part, seem to have devolved upon his only child and heiress Anne, but her right was questioned by a male heir collaterally descended, who founded his claim upon an alleged deed of entail still in force.

In the 6 Elizabeth (1563) Thomas Bamforthe claiming as cousin and heir to John Bamforthe and as a lineal descendant of Adam Bamforthe, who was seised in fee in the reign of Henry I., entered an action at Lancaster against Thomas Birche, Robert Skofeld, Dennis Key, William Bamforthe and Anne Bamforthe, in relation to certain lands, tenements and hereditaments in Bury, Middleton, Withington, &c.; and this was but the continuation of proceedings instituted in the same Court three years earlier. Their efforts were however, as it seems, unattended with success, except in so far as Bamford Hall and the lands thereunto annexed were concerned, in which the deed of entail limiting the succession to heirs male had remained unbroken. By an indenture tripartite, dated the 25th of June 16 Elizabeth (1573), between John Bamford of Powlesworth in the county of Warwick yeoman on the first part, George Birch of Birch in the county of Lancaster gent. and Anne his wife, daughter and sole heir of John Bamford late of The Holte in the said county deceased, on the second part, and John Woodroff of Staple Inn in the county of Middlesex gent. and Thomas Antrobus of Lincoln's Inn in the same county gent. on the third part, It is witnessed that "whereas there hath bene longe stryff, suyte and debate betwene the said John Bamford and his auncestors synce the death of the said John Bamford, of, for and concerninge certaine landes, tenementes and heredytamentes, with their appurtenances, in Myddleton, Spotland, Rachedale, Gorton and Withington, in the said countie of Lancaster, w^{ch} the said Anne claymed as heire unto the said John Bamford deceased; and the said John Bamford and his auncestors claymed the same as heire male by force of an entayle, ffor the quyetinge of w^{ch} controversies and suytes the said parties have by medyacon of their

ffrendes agreed in manner and fourme followinge : that is to say, that the said John Bamford shall have for all his right, tytle, clayme, interest and demaund of and in the premises a certaine somme of money to him to be paied by the said George and Anne, and that the said John in consideraçon thereof is content and agreed to assure all his right, clayme and interest in the premises unto the said George Byrche and Anne his wife, and to the heires of the same Anne, the said John undertaking before the feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle next ensuing to pass and knowledge both fyne and recovery and such other assurance as shalbe, as before is said, advised by the learned counsel of the said George Byrch," &c.

The family continued in the male line at Bamford near Middleton until the death of George Bamford Esq., who died in 1757, leaving three daughters his coheirresses; these all dying without issue, the estate was devised by Anne the eldest daughter in 1779 to William Bamford of Tarlton Bridge, a remote kinsman, afterwards sheriff of Lancaster, who married in 1786 Anna, daughter of Thomas Blackburne of Hale Esq., who assumed the name of Bamford in 1806, and was grandfather of Lloyd Hesketh Bamford Hesketh of Gwyrch Castle, in the county of Denbigh, Esq., the owner of several estates in Didsbury township.¹

The name Holt signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a grove of timber trees. Matilda del Holt, who is named as a land-owner in Rusholme in a deed dated 29 Edward I. (1301),² and Thomas del Holtes, who in 1349 appears as a witness to a deed of conveyance relating to the Slade Hall estate, in the township of Rusholme, may probably have been members of a family deriving its name from this place.

The family of Entwisle also was anciently connected with either the township or manor of Withington. Edmund Entwisell, as appears from an inquisition p. m. dated 36 Henry VIII. (1544), died seised of Entwisell manor in Bolton parish, and also of lands

¹ Raines's *Not. Cestr.* vol. ii. part i. p. 29 (Chetham Series).

² *Birch Papers*, penes Sir John W. H. Anson Bart.

&c. in Withington. In 1576, Edward Tildesley impleads Alexander Entwissell in the Duchy Court at Lancaster in relation to certain lands &c. in Entwissell manor, Withington, &c.

The name of Trafford occurs in the annals of the township at a period too early to be now determined. By a deed undated, but executed before the year 1224, Matthew de Hathersage grants to Richard de Trafford and his heirs in return for homage and service all the land which Adam, son of Alexander de Didsbury, held of him for the term of his life, within the following limits, beginning at Cringlebrook and following the ditch towards the north as far as Holdholmbrook, and so following Holdholmbrook as far as the boundary on the land of Richard de Trafford and Thenmannes Crofte, and thence towards the west as far as the highway and so following the highway as far as Holdholmbrook &c. and the common pasture of Wyddine, wherein his (Matthew de Hathersage) other free tenants participate, — To have and to hold the same for himself and his heirs, Jews and ecclesiastics excepted, on payment of two shillings in silver each year at the feast of St. Michael and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.¹

¹ Sciunt &c. q^d ego Math. de Hav'seg' dedi &c. Richō de Trafford & hedibꝫ suis p' homag' et servicio suo totā terr q^m Adam fil. Alexandri de Diddesbur' de me tenuit ad terminum vite infra has divisas incipiend. a ȝingelbrock et sic sequendo fossatam versus aquilonem usq' ad Holdholmbrook et sic sequendo Holdholmbrook usq' ad divisam q' est in t'ram Ric. de Trafford & thenmannes crofte sequendo usq' occidentem usq' ad altam stratā et sic sequendo altā stratā usq' ad Holdholmbrook &c. ac com' pastur' de Wyddine ubi alii lib'i hoīes mei de Wyddine ȝmunicat'; Ten'd et hēnd de me &c. sibi et hēdibꝫ suis exceptis judeis et viris religiosīs libē quiete &c.; Redd. ann' duos solidos arg' ad fest' S'e'i Mich. et Annunc' bē Marie. Hiis testibꝫ D'no Will'o doly; Will'o le Norays; Ric. de Moston; Math'o de Byrkis; Will'o de Diddesbur'; Ric. de Chollert' et aliis. — *Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS. vol. xxv.* The deed is endorsed "Deed of pasture in Wythington, — Carta Math. de Haverscheh de falingfeld & crynglebroc." The prohibitory clause in the above deed, relating to Jews and ecclesiastics, is worthy of remark, as assisting to determine the precise period at which the deed was executed. It is clear that at this time the Statute of Mortmain had not been passed, which declared it to be unlawful for any person to give his land to a religious house so as to take it back again and hold it of the house, the chief lord in such cases sustaining a loss in the withdrawal of the services due from such lands, services originally provided for the defence of the realm. Before the 9 Henry III.

There is a frequent recurrence to the name in subsequent years. From an inquisition p. m. of Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. dated 5 Henry VIII. (1513), we find him seised at his death of the manor of Trafford, and also of lands in Withington. He was the second knight of that name, and succeeded to the estates in 1484. Later inquisitions, of his son and successor, Sir Edmund Trafford (who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Ralph Longford), in the 21 Henry VIII. (1529), his grandson of the same name, in the 6 Elizabeth (1563), and his great grandson also, Sir Edmund the fifth knight of that name, in the 32 Elizabeth (1589), show the descent of the estate to have been uninterrupted. In the 20 Elizabeth (1577) Sir Edmond Trafford Knt. associated with Sir William West, Lord De la Warre, as joint lords of the manor of Manchester, prefer their claim at Lancaster to courts leet and view of frankpledge, and amercements in Manchester town, Manchester manor, Withington &c. In the 40 Elizabeth (1597) Edward Trafford appears as defendant in an action brought against him and others by one George Holden for forcible entry on ground called The Houghes, Mosgreen, &c., and throwing down plaintiff's house and barn, built on a parcel of the Moss-greene in Wythingeton manor and Houghe manor.

Other proprietors in the reign of Elizabeth were Christian Hulton, widow and devisee of William Hulton of Hulton Esq., who in the 3 Elizabeth (1560) prosecuted Adam Hulton in respect of certain lands in Withington, &c., concerning which there had been a decree:—Edward Syddall of Slade Hall, the original purchaser of that estate, whose inquisition bears date 30 Elizabeth (1587):—Robert Hulme of Hulme Hall in Reddish Esq., inquisi-

(1224) a man might give or sell his lands to ecclesiastics as well as any other persons, unless it was forbidden in the gift of the land to himself, and accordingly the chief lords, on making a grant of land, were accustomed to insert a clause preventing the sale or gift to religious houses. It was in the 54 and 55 Henry III. (1269–70) that the Jews were declared incapable of purchasing or taking a freehold interest in land. Before this, though oppressed and considered as bondmen of the King, they could hold land, subject however to the right of the King to impose heavy taxes upon them and to seize their lands if the said taxes were not paid.

tion dated 43 Elizabeth (1600), whose grandson William Hulme Esq. died seised of the same estate in the 17 Charles I. (1641):— and Sir Robert Lovell Knt., inquisition dated 44 Elizabeth (1601), to whom, under Didsbury, reference has already been made.

In the reign of James I. amongst the land-owners in Withington we find the name of George Birch of Birch Hall in the neighbouring township of Rusholme, whose inquisition was taken at Manchester 11 James I. (1613). He died seised, amongst other estates, of a house called “The Holt,” with the demesne &c. thereunto belonging, situate in Withington, which had descended to him from his mother Anne, daughter and heiress of John Bamford of The Holt Esq. This estate he held from Rowland Mosley Esq. as of his manor of Withington, by military service, namely, the fiftieth part of a knight’s fee and the annual payment of two-pence.

Other inquisitions are those of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt. lord of the manor of Withington, dated 12 James I. (1614), his son Rowland Mosley Esq., inquisition dated 15 James I. (1617), and Anne Duckenfield, inquisition dated 18 James I. (1620). Certain estates in Withington and Fallowfield were also held by the family of Prestwich of Hulme, as appears from the inquisition of Edmund Prestwich, dated 9 Charles I. (1633).¹

The chief landed proprietors in the township at the present day are William Tatton Egerton Esq. M.P., the Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden, Charles Carill Worsley Esq., the executors of the late John Holford Esq., Nathan Slater Esq., and Samuel Brooks Esq.

Fallowfield is a hamlet in the township of Withington, on the Manchester and Wilmslow turnpike road, at the point of junction of Withington and Rusholme townships. It was thus designated prior to the year 1300. At a very early period it gave its name

¹ The name of Withington being sometimes used in ancient deeds in its more extended sense to indicate the *manor* of that name, whilst at other times it is confined strictly to the *township*, it becomes difficult if not impossible, in all cases, to discriminate between them; an occasional uncertainty in the classification of names and estates under this division must therefore be inevitable.

to a family located there. By a deed executed at Withington and bearing date 11 Edward II. (1317) Thomas, son of John de Fallowfield, conveys to Nicholas, son of Sir Henry de Trafford Knt., a certain plot of wood-land in Fallowfield in the township of Withington, called Dyche Flat, within the following limits, beginning at the cleared space once the property of John, son of Alexander de Fallowfield, thence descending as far as Huchunbothmulache, and thence following the Heystowe between the Oyche Flat and the aforesaid Huchunbothmulache towards the Mekeldyche, thence ascending the Mekeldyche as far as the land formerly in the possession of the aforesaid John, son of Alexander, — To have and to hold the same to the said Nicholas and his heirs &c.; but if he should happen to die without issue, then with remainder to his brothers in succession, Geoffrey, Thomas, Robert, Richard and Henry.¹

There are yet earlier notices of this family in a deed of conveyance of lands in Rusholme, dated 29 Edward I. (1301), the contracting parties being William, son of Henry son of Houlet de Manchester, and Jordan, son of William de Fallowfield.²

In the 21 Henry VIII. (1529) Sir Edmund Trafford died seised of the manor of Trafford and also of lands in Falowfelde and Yeldehouse, which estates were transmitted to his son and grandson in succession. Another land-owner in Fallowfield was Edmund Prestwich of Holme Esq., whose inquisition post mortem

¹ Sciant p'sentes &c. ego Thom' fil. Joh'is de ffalufeld dedi &c. Nichō fil. Henr' de Trafford militis quād^m placeam terre in bosco in ffalufeld in vill de Wythinton que vocatur Dyche-flat infra has divisas, incipiendo ad cornarē assarti q^d fuit Joh'is fil. Alex' de ffalufeld, descend' usq' ad Huchunbothmulache et sequendo le Heystowe inter le Oyche-flat et p'd'c'm Huchunbothmulache versus le Mekeldyche, ascend' le Mekeldyche usq' in t'ram que fuit p'd'eti Joh'is fil. Alex'; Hēnd &c. p'd'cto Nichō et hēd'bꝫ de corpē &c. et si conting' &c. rem. Galfrido frī ejus, Thome, Rob'to, Richō, Henr', fratr' ejus. Hīs testibꝫ Henr' de Trafford milit.; Ricō de Trafford rector eccl'ie de Chedle; Matheo de Haydock; Ricō de Moston; Johē fil. Thome de Asslton; Nichō de Wykesworthe cl'ico et aliis. Dat. ap^d Wythinton die veneris pr'x ante festū S'e'i Mich'l in yērne anno Edwardi fil. reg. Edwardi undecimo. — *Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv.

² *Birch Papers*, penes Sir J. W. H. Anson Bart.

is dated 9 Charles I. (1633). In the 31 Henry VIII. (1539) Alice Syddal, widow and executrix of James Syddal, disputes with Edward Holt and others the possession of certain messuages, lands &c. in Fallowfield, late the property of her deceased husband. The Syddals afterwards became the purchasers of Slade Hall in the adjacent township of Rusholme.

At the north-west corner of the township stands the Independent College, a large and somewhat imposing structure, designed for the education of young men intended for the ministry in that denomination. The cost of its erection, including the site (six acres in extent) was about £27,000, which sum was raised by voluntary subscription chiefly among congregational dissenters in Lancashire. It affords accommodation for forty or fifty students, assigning a separate study and bedroom to each, and the annual expense of its support, defrayed for the most part by contributions, averages about £2,500. It is affiliated with the London University, and its course of literary education is such as to qualify its students to graduate at that university. It was first opened April 25, 1843. The college itself is built entirely of dressed stone; the style adopted is that known as Tudor-Gothic, which may be said to have prevailed during the latter part of the fifteenth and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries. The principal front is 261 feet in length and 40 feet in height, with a tower in the centre surmounted by a lantern rising to the height of 92 feet; the tower is supported by three-stage buttresses with plain set-offs, placed rectangularwise and terminating in crocketed pinnacles; pinnacles of the same character spring from each angle of the lantern. At each end of the building is a gable advanced considerably forward from the main structure, and lighted by an oriel window forming three sides of an octagon. On the ground-floor is an arcade or covered walk upwards of 200 feet long for shelter and exercise, and on the same floor are extensive kitchens and other offices required for the establishment. The principal apartments on the second story are approached by a broad flight of steps underneath the entrance tower. The en-

trance hall is 32 feet long by 30 feet broad, and is 36 feet in height, open to the roof, which is formed by four large timber arches springing from stone corbels and decorated with tracery. From the hall the principal apartments branch off on each side and consist of a library and dining hall each 50 feet by 25 feet, two others of smaller dimensions, and other apartments. One of the principal features is a corridor running the entire length of the building, connecting the various rooms and staircases: on this floor the windows are all of the same design—three-light, square-headed, divided by a transom and externally protected by a label continued from window to window. From the hall a broad stone staircase leads to a gallery supported on stone piers and arches, from which corridors branching right and left conduct to the students' dormitories in the upper story. At each of the principal fronts the residences of the professors are placed. The wings, each 112 feet in length, are appropriated to the studies and dormitories of the students, having separate entrances, staircases and corridors.

Withington has no Charity exclusively its own. For Charities of Sir Edward Mosley, Chorlton, Boardman, Bland and Linney, in all of which the township participates, see under Didsbury, pp. 100–102.

The earliest Population Returns for Withington are in the year 1774, at which time the township contained within its limits (exclusive of the hamlet of Fallowfield, for which a separate return is made) 71 houses, tenanted by 73 families or 438 individuals: of these one hundred and sixty-two were under the age of 15; fifty-eight above 50; fifteen above 60; eight above 70, and one above 80. The returns made the same year for the hamlet of Fallowfield assign to it 15 houses tenanted by 15 families, consisting of 60 individuals, of whom nineteen were under 15 years of age; seventeen above 50; three above 60; two above 70, and one above 80. In 1801 the entire township contained 133 houses and 743 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 911. In 1821 they numbered 892, showing a decrease in the

population of 19 persons since the last return; houses 143; families 156, of whom 93 were engaged in agriculture, 58 in manufactures, and 5 otherwise. In 1831 there were houses empty 3, ditto occupied 162, being tenanted by 180 families, 85 of whom were chiefly employed in agriculture, 76 in manufactures &c., and 19 otherwise engaged; inhabitants 1048. In 1841 there were 8 empty houses, 7 in the course of erection, and 214 inhabited; total inhabitants 1277. In 1851 there were 6 empty houses, 1 building, and 259 occupied by a population of 1492 persons.

In 1655, 39 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township (exclusive of Fallowfield), amongst whom were Sir Edward Mosley, £7 16s. 6d.; Mrs. Mosley, £1 16s.; Edward Chorleton, Robert Syddall, Edward Worsley of the Tithebarn, Edward Widow Hirst (Edward Hirst's widow), Richard Birch, Richard Smyth, and William Hoult. Their aggregate poor's rate for the half year ending November 25th was £35 16s. 6d. In Fallowfield the ratepayers numbered 9, including Ralph Nicholson, Widow Nicholson, John Bradshaw, Widow Bradshaw, and Widow Sidall. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 336, and the total amount of rate collected £276 18s. 9d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor in the township was £14,017 9s. 11d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land tax, was £311 5s. 5d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county rate, £5,006; in 1829, £6,378; in 1841, £9,565; and in 1853, £12,027.

Withington contained, in 1854, 61 county voters. There were in the same year in the township 3 public-houses and 5 beer-houses. It has no mill or manufactory of any description — no colliery, railway, river, or canal. The area of the township, as stated by Rickman in the Census Returns of 1831, is 2420 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 2489 acres, and the Ordnance Survey at 2501 acres 21 perches.

In its ecclesiastical relations Withington was until recently included in the parochial chapelry of Didsbury. In 1658 the chapel

rate for the repair of Didsbury Chapel was paid by 46 of the inhabitants of Withington, amongst whom were Sir Edward Mosley, Mrs. Anne Mosley and Mr. Richard Jackson. The tithes of the township were payable to the Warden and Fellows of Manchester as rectors of the whole parish. In 1701 the tithes of Withington and Burnage were leased to W. Birch for £32 per annum, and the tithes of Fallowfield to Samuel Bamford for £4. In 1848 the rent-charge paid to the Dean and Chapter in lieu of tithes for Withington alone was £115, besides the further sum of £20 9s., payable to the Impropiator.

Its severance from Didsbury was effected in 1841, in which year a church was erected in Withington for the accommodation of the inhabitants. It is of brick with stone dressings, and is a plain and rather inelegant structure, in the style known as semi-Norman, or transition from the Anglo-Norman to the Early English, the first of the pure Gothic styles. The plan is in the form of a parallelogram, comprising a nave and chancel, with a tower flanking the western gable. The north and south sides are divided into bays by flat pilaster-like buttresses carried up and terminating in the corbel-table supporting the parapet. Each bay is lighted by a narrow circular-headed single-light window, with a drip-stone carried round the head and continued horizontally along the wall to the buttress. In the eastern or chancel gable is a large wheel-window divided into compartments by small shafts. The tower is of four stages (the basement constituting the principal entrance to the church) and is supported by octagonal buttresses at the angles, carried up to the edge of the parapet and terminating in four conical-capped pinnacles. The total cost of its erection was £2,790 4s. 4½d., viz.:—building, £2,240 9s. 8d.; sewerage and labour, £50 4s. 6d.; fixtures and furniture, £101 5s. 11½d.; sundries, including bell and lawyer's bill, £227 1s. 7d.; architect, £110 12s.; clerk of the works, £20; sundries, £40 10s. 8d. The chief promoters were Wilbraham Egerton Esq., who gave the site and £400; T. C. Worsley Esq. £100; Henry Forth Esq. £100; Joseph Birley Esq. £75; Robert Tebbutt Esq. £50;

Bulkeley Price Esq. £50; R. Hodgson Esq. £50; George Withington Esq. £50; F. R. Hodgson Esq. £50; T. Slater Esq. £50; N. Slater Esq. £50; Samuel Brooks Esq. £50; F. A. Philips Esq. £50; Rev. Robert Mosley Fielden £50; T. Mottram Esq. £50; Miss Atherton £50; F. Philips Esq. £50. The church was consecrated October 21, 1841.

The schools which are also of brick, and lie closely contiguous to the church, were erected in 1844 at a cost of £600. The site was given by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. The names of the principal contributors are T. C. Worsley Esq. £50; Edmund Wright Esq. £50; Robert Gladstone Esq. £50; N. Slater Esq. £50; John Souchay Esq. £25; Bulkeley Price Esq. £20; Rev. F. H. Hooper £20; — Davies Esq. £20; F. Hodgson Esq. £20; to which must be added a Government grant of £100. Accommodation is provided for 160 children.

In 1855 a parsonage-house was added; towards which Wilbraham Egerton Esq. contributed £200; Edmund Wright Esq. £100; Nathan Slater Esq. £75; John Barratt Esq. £60; C. P. Henderson Esq. £50; Rev. Theophilus Bennett £30; Rev. R. W. Burton £25; Richard Hampson Esq. £20. It was erected at a cost of £1,500.

Possessing great influence in the township as long resident there was the family of Mosley, in descent from Robert Moseley the possessor of a burgage in Manchester near the Bridge in the 13 Edward IV. Jenkyn Moseley gent. resided in Withington in 1465. He married an heiress whose name has not been recorded, but whose family arms (or a fess sable between three eaglets displayed sable) are to the present day quartered by his descendants, and have been recognized by the Heralds' College. The name of his residence was Hough End, so called from the Anglo-Saxon *hof*, a dwelling, and *ende*, a boundary; the house being situated near to the boundary line of the two townships of Withington and Chorlton. He was succeeded by his son James Moseley, who attained his full age in the 6 Henry VII. (1490). James Moseley was the father of Edward, who married Margaret, daugh-

ter of Alexander Elcocke of Stockport gent., and died in 1571, leaving three sons, Oswald, Nicholas and Anthony. At this time a spirit of commercial enterprise had diffused itself throughout the land, and the two younger sons of Edward Moseley of Hough End, Nicholas and Anthony, embarked in trade in Manchester. Their business prospering, it was determined that one of them should take up his residence in London in order to direct the exportation of such of their goods as were destined for foreign markets. Nicholas accordingly proceeded thither, and success still attending his efforts he quickly advanced in fame and fortune. He became an alderman of Aldersgate Ward, and in 1590 served the office of sheriff. In 1594 he was elected an alderman of Langbourn Ward, and in 1599 he became lord mayor of London. During his term of office apprehensions were entertained of a meditated attempt on the part of Spain to reverse the late discomfiture of their "invincible armada," and an invasion of England was thought imminent. The citizens of London undertook to furnish the Queen with 6000 soldiers and sixteen ships of war; and this duty, as well as the providing other adequate defences for the city, was undertaken and carried out under the superintendence and by the energy of the lord mayor. Ireland too had begun to show symptoms of uneasiness, and for quelling an anticipated insurrection a further levy of 500 men and several ships was made upon the citizens, who cheerfully responded. This was done chiefly at the suggestion of the lord mayor; and so entirely did it meet with the Queen's approval that before the expiration of his mayoralty he received the honour of knighthood, her majesty presenting him at the same time with a handsomely-carved oak bedstead and other articles of furniture for the new house which he had recently erected at Hough End on the site of the old mansion, the seat of his ancestors. In 1596 he purchased the manor of Manchester from his friend John Lacy, citizen of London, and added yet further to his influence in that neighbourhood by the purchase of lands in Heaton Norris and in the township of Withington. In conformity with a custom at that time prevalent

and, it is stated, in compliment to his son Edward, then rising into note as a barrister, he changed his name from Moseley to Mosley, so that it might the better harmonise with the punning motto he had recently adopted — “Mos legem regit” — Custom or precedent rules the law. In 1604 he was appointed high sheriff of the county of Lancaster. Sir Nicholas was twice married; his first wife being Margaret, daughter of Hugh Whitbroke of Bridgenorth gent., by whom he had issue Rowland, his eldest son and successor, Anthony and Edward, besides other children who died in their infancy. He married secondly in 1592 Elizabeth, daughter of John Rookes gent. and relict of — Hendley of the city of London gent., who survived him. His later years were passed at Hough End, where he died in 1612 at the advanced age of 85. He was buried at Didsbury in the Mosley Chapel at the south side of the chancel, a handsome monument being erected to his memory by his widow.¹

WILL OF SIR NICHOLAS MOSLEY KNT.

In the name of God, Amen. I S^r Nicholas Mosley of the Hough End in the countie of Lancaster Knyghte, beinge in good and p^rfecte memorie (the Lord bee prayسد) doe ordaine and make this my laste Will and Testam^t wherein is contayned th^r effecte of my laste will. And ffirste and principallie I comēde my soule unto Almyghtie God my Maker and Redeemer wth a stedfaste hope to bee saved by the mercie and merriitts of o^r Lord and onlie Savio^r Jesus Christe: and my bodie to bee buried in the Chapell of Didsburie or wheare ytt shall please God to appoynte. And for such seignories, mano^{rs}, lordshipps, landes, tenementes and hereditamentes, together wth such leases, goodes, debtes, credittes, cattalls, and chattalls as ytt hath pleased Almightye God to make me overseer and stewarde of in this transitorie worlde, I will, geve, bequeath and devise the same as hereafter followeth; that is to saie, ffirst my will and mynde is that Dame Elizabeth nowe my wief shall have soc muche, if shee bee contented therewith, as my

¹ *Family Memoirs* by Sir Oswald Mosley Bart., pp. 8, 9. 1849.

sonne Rowlande and myself have covenanted to paye her yearlie, w^{ch} is the some of three hundred poundes ev'rie yeare duringe her n'rall lief, and the some of xxx^{li} a yeare more to bee payde duringe her widowhood for her house rente, in such sorte as my said sonne Rowland Mosley and myself have covenanted shee shall have. Also I give and bequeath to my said wief in lieu of her chamber two of my beste beddes wth the ffurniture accordingle, excepte the beste tapestrie cov'ringe and the beste bedstocke alsoe excepted. Also I give and bequeath unto my said wief all such plate as shee had att the tyme I married her, save onlie one pott w^{ch} was stoolene awaye in the tyme of my mayroltie in London. And also I give and bequeath unto my said wief her chaine and brasletts and her wearinge apparell and all thinges hercunto belonginge. And alsoe I give and bequeath unto my saide wief my coache and coache horses wth the furniture thereof; and alsoe all such lynnens as were my said wiefes before I married her, and a restinge in the house; butt if my said wief bee not therewth contented butt shall in anie wise sue and trouble my executo^r or his assignes for anie furth^r or oth^r portions, that then my will and mynde is that my form^r guiftes and bequeathes shall cease and bee utterlie voyde and the same to remayne to my executo^r and his assignes. Alsoe I give to a schoolem^r to teache scoole att Chollerton Chapell five poundes ev'ie yeare duringe twentie yeares nexte after my decease oute of my rentes of the Denorie of Bridge North, yearelie to bee receaved; Provided alwaies that my two sonnes Rowland Mosley and Edward Mosley and my nephew Oswolde Mosley sonne to my late broth^r Anthonic Mosley or anie two of them, their heires or assignes, shall have the nominacōn of the said schoolem^r; and provided alsoe that the said scholem^r shall not take of anie scholler above vj^d a quarter of a yeares teachinge; and alsoe that my two sonnes and my said nephewe or anie two of them their heires or assignes shall have power to discharge the said schoolem^r if hee bee negligent in teachinge his schollers, and to appoynte an oth^r in his place. And I will and desire that the said schoolem^r maye reade praire three tymes ev'ie week in the said chapell. Alsoe I

will and desire that the mayntenance w^{ch} Mr. Chorleton gave to the said scoole, beyng five poundes yearlie or above, maye bee employed to the said use accordinge to his guifte. Alsoe my will and mynde is that I or my excentor shall pay unto my sonne Edward Mosley w^{thin} one whoole yeare after the deate hereof the fulle and iuste somme of nyne hundredth and fyftie poundes of lawfull money of England p^rvided alwaies and upon condicōn that the saide Edward Mosley doe and shall convaye and assure unto the said Rowland Mosley his heires and assignes all that his capitall messuage or mansion house called The Lodge, in Alpole [Alport] Parke, wth all houses and buyldinges belongynge to the same in Alpole neare Manchester w^{thin} the countie of Lancaster, w^{ch} is parte of the saide parke and impayled groundes called Alpole Parke, and his parte of the soyle and grounde betweene the parke pale and the river of Irwill; and alsoe all his parte of the feilde called Alpole feilde wth two closes licinge and beyng in Alpole aforesaid; and all such other interestes as hee the said Edward Mosley hath in the said house and groundes. Alsoe I doe give, graunte, confirme and devise unto my said sonne Edward Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to bee begotten, all and singuler these houses or tenements and gardenes in Manchester aforesaid w^{ch} I boughte, p^rcured or purchased of Alexander Sorocolde and Stephen Browne deceased wth all and singuler rentes, rev^rcons, services and hereditaments to them and ev^rie or anie of them app^rtayninge or belongynge. Alsoe I doe allowe of and confirme unto my said sonne Edward Mosley all such money as hee heretofore received by my guifte of S^r Walter Arcott K^t and of George Birche gent., amountinge to ffoure hundreth poundes; and alsoe one hundreth poundes w^{ch} I gave unto him when hee entered upon his office. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my eldest sonne Rowland Mosley the moyctie of the Deanerie of Bridge Northe and all and singuler the landes, rentes and hereditamentes thereunto belonginge for and duringe the n^rall lives of Dame Elizabeth

my nowe wief, and from and after the death and decease of the saide Dame Elizabeth my wief, my will and mynd is and I doe hereby will, give and devise unto my said sonne Edward Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to be begotten the said moyetic of the said Deanerie of Bridge North, and all and singuler the landes, rentes and hereditaments thereunto belongynge, wth all privilegedges, jurisdicōns, members, teithes and appurtenances thereto belongynge charded and chargeable neverthelesse wth the Kinges Ma^{ties} rentes. Alsoe ytt ys my will and mynde and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said sonne Edward Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie lawfullie begotten or to bee begotten the oth^r moyetic of the Deanerie of Bridge North, latelie p^{re}cured or purchased by me of Will^m Whitmore Esquier, and all and singuler the landes, rentes and hereditam^{ts} in Bridge North aforesaid, and in the counties of Salopp and Stafford or eith^r of them to the said moyetic belonginge or app^{ro}pryayninge wth all privilidges, jurisdicōns, members, tythes and appurtenances thereunto belonginge, charded and chargeable nev^{er}theless wth the yearelie rente or so^me of fyve poundes, before by me given and bequeathed to a schoolem^r to teache schoole att Chollerton Chapell duringe the said twentie yeares nexte after my decease, w^{ch} yearelie rente of fyve poundes my will is shall bee payde att the feaste of St. Michaell th^o arkangle and the annunciation of the blessed Virgin Marie by equall p^{ro}visions or wthin fourtie daies of eith^r of the said feastes nexte ensueinge, the firste payem^t to beginne att wheth^r of the said feastes shall nexte happen after my decease, ov^r and besydes the Kinges Ma^{ties} rente. And alsoe I doe hereby give, ratifie and allowe to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., all that and those the manno^{rs} and lordshippes of Houghe, Whithington and Didsburie, and all and ev^{er}ie the landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev^{er}sons, services and hereditam^{ts} in Houghe, Whithington, Didsburie, Burnedge, Eaton Wood greene, fallowefeild, Houghend, Yealdhouse, Moss-greene, Ladiebarne, Rushoolme, Barscrofte, Chorleton, Chollerton, Stretford, Turvemosse, Lydle heath and Birchall houses, in

as large and ample mann^r as they bee stated and conveyed unto him by one deede of Intayle bearinge date the xxviiith daie of July inste in the fourth yeare of the raigne of the Kinges Matie that nowe is as oth^r waies. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde, and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the seignoric manno^r and lordshipp of Manchester in the countie of Lancaster w^{ch} I contracted for or purchased of or from Mr. John Lacie late of London, cloth-worker, and all the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said manno^r of Manchester in anie wise app'tayneinge or belongynge excepte certayne houses or tenem^{ts} w^{ch} I have hereby given to my said sonne Edward Mosley and his heires males, and were boughte by me of Stephen Browne and of Alexander Sorocoulde deceased. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe hereby give, will, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the manno^r or lordshipp of Heaton Norres in the said countie of Lancaster, and all and singuler the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said manno^r or lordshipp in anie wise app'tayninge or belonginge w^{ch} I latelie purchased of the Lord Gerrard that nowe is. Alsoe I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and the heires males of his bodie, &c., all and singuler the messuages, landes, tenem^{ts}, rentes, rev[']cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} in Streetehouse Lane in the said countie of Lancaster w^{ch} I purchased amongste oth^r thinges of the Ladie Lovell. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby will, give, devise and confirme unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and the heires males of his bodie, &c., the manno^{rs} or lordshippes of Cheetham, Cheetwood and Brighte meade, wth all my righte, tytle, intereste and service w^{ch} I have yett to come by vertue of one lease of ten thousande yeares granted to me by the right honorable Will^m Earle of Derby, wth all and singuler rentes, rev[']cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge or in anie man^r appertayneinge. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe

hereby will, give and devise to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the lordshippes of Prestall Lee and Walkden and eith^r of them, in the countie of Lancaster, and two messuages and tenem^{ts} wth all landes, rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge, situate, lyeinge and beinge in Barlow and Houlme in the said countie of Lancaster, all w^{ch} I purchased of S^r Edmund Trafford Kt., wth all and singuler rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} to the said lordshippes anie or ev^{ry}e of them app'tayninge or belongyng. Provided alwaies, and ytt is my will and mynde that if my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley doe not paie or cause to bee paid or tendereth unto my said sonne Edward Mosley the aforesaid sōme of nyne hundred and fyftie poundes heretofore by this my will limited and appoynted, that then my will and mynde is, and I doe hereby will, give and devise to my said sonne Edward Mosley and to the heires males of his bodie, &c., the aforesaid manno^{rs} or lordshippes of Prestall Lee and Walkden and eith^r of them wth the messuages, rentes, rev'cōns, services and hereditam^{ts} thereunto belonginge or app'tayning. And although I have heretofore conveyed unto my sonne Anthonie and his heires one moyetie of the Deanerie of Bridge North in possession for his p'ferment in marriage xij or xij yeares agoe w^{ch} hee sythence hath soude, and then and before have given him greate sōmes of money amountinge to twelve hundred poundes w^{ch} beinge given unto him in my lief tyme and longe before my death, I thinke to bee a sufficient advancem^t, togeth^r wth such p'ferm't as I doe by this my laste will bestowe upon his daughter, and therefore doe not mention my said sonne Anthonie Mosley before in this my laste will, but houlde him and soe herebie declare him to be fullie advanced, yett notwthstandinge my will and mynde is that my sonne Rowland Mosley and his heires shall oute of the capitall messuage called the Whitehall and the landes thereunto belonginge, scituate, lyeinge and beinge in Houghe in the p'ishe of Wilmeslowe in the countie of Chester, paye unto the said Anthonie Mosley my sonne for his better mayntenance twentie poundes a yeare of currante money of Eng-

land if hee therewth bee contented and satisfied, viz^t ev^rie quarter five poundes duringe the n^rall lief of the said Anthonie y^t ytt shalbe from tyme to tyme yearelie duringe his n^rall lief soe thoughte convenient and needfull att and by the discrecōn of my nephewes Oswould Mosley of the Ancoates and francis his broth^r, and of Alexander Elcocke, sonne to my late cosin francis Elcocke of Stockporte, or of anie two of them, their heires or assignes, and not oth^rwise. And alsoe that my said sonne Rowlande Mosley and his heires or assignes shall out of the said capitall messuage called the Whitehall and the landes thereunto belonging paye unto M^rgarett Mosley, daughter to my said sonne Anthonie Mosley, for her maynetenance duringe her n^rall lief sixe poundes thirteene shillings foure pence yearelie of lyke currante money of England att the lyke feaste dayes by equall p^cōns, viz. xxxij^s iiij^d a quarter if ytt shalbe soe thoughte from tyme to tyme conveniente and needfull by the discrecōn of my said nephewes Oswould and francis Mosley and my said cosin Alexander Elcocke, their heires or assignes or anie two of them, if the terme containd in the said indenture of lease soe longe endure. And after th^r expiracōn of the lease my will and mynde is that my said sonne Rowland Mosley and his heires shall well and trulie paye or cause to bee payde unto the said M^rgarett Mosley duringe her n^rall lief sixe poundes xij^s iiij^d a yeare, viz^t three and thirtie shillings foure pence a quarter att the feaste aforesaid if ytt shalbe thought needfull by the p^ties above named or anie two of them, their heires or assignes, oute of all the landes that I have given to my said sonne Rowlande Mosley and his heires. Alsoe my will and mynde is that if the p^rvision alreadie made for my sisters by me and my friendes bee under the value of xx^{tie} nobles a peece, then I bynde th^r executo^r of this my will to paye oute of my goodes unto ev^rie of my sisters that have not p^rvision to the sōme of vj^{li} xij^s iiij^d a peece yearelie, the sūme of xij^s iiij^d a quarter att the feaste aforesaid duringe their n^rall liefes respectivelie, and that ytt shalbe soe thoughte needfull by the sup^rvisors of this my laste will or the more p^rte of them.

Alsoe I doe furth^r give and confirme unto the worp^{ll} the Maister Wardens of the Companie of Clothworkers in London all such landes tenem^{ts} and hereditam^{ts} as were purchased by them in my name, and accordinge to a form^r will by me made of the purpose onelie. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath to ev^{rie} one of my household s^rvantes that have served me five yeares, sixe and twentie shillinges eighte pence a peece ov^r and besides theire wages; and to ev^{rie} one of my s^rvantes that have s^rved me one yeare, tenne shillinges a peece ov^r and besydes theire wages. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby give and bequeath unto fouretie poore men and twentie poore women ev^{rie} one a gowne; and to ev^{rie} poore housholder wthin this p^rish that shalbe att my fun^{all} iij^d a peece. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath unto the poore of the towne of Manchester xx^l to bee distributed amongste them by fyve poundes a yeare att the feaste of St. Michaell and the Birthe of o^r Lorde God by even porc^ōns by the discrec^ōn of my executo^{rs} and ov^rseers. Alsoe I will, give and bequeath unto the poore of the townshippes of Whithington and Heaton Norres the lyke sū^me of xx^{li} to bee distributed in such waie and sorte as th^r oth^r xx^{li} to the poore of Manchester before by me appoynted to bee distributed. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde and I doe give and bequeath to George Allen my warde, his marriage and warde shipp, and all the benefitte of his landes since he came to age. Alsoe ytt is my will and mynde that my plate shalbe equallic divided betwixte my two sonnes Rowland Mosley and Edward Mosley, all saveinge my basen and yewere of silv^r w^{ch} I give and bequeath to my said sonne Rowland Mosley as an heire-loome to my house. Alsoe, whereas I have a lease to me and my assignes for terme of the n^rall liefes of my sonnes Rowland Mosley and Anthonie Mosley and of the longer liver of them of one capitall messuage and landes thereunto belonginge wth th^r appurtenances com^ōnlie called Whitehall, situate in the Houghe wthin the p^rish of Wilmeslowe in the countie of Chester, ytt is my will and mynde and I doe assigne ov^r the said lease of the said capitall messuage called Whitehall, and of all the

landes and hereditam^{ts} wth the appurtenances thereto belonginge to the said Rowland Mosley my sonne, his heires, executo^{rs} and assignes duriuge the terme of three score yeares next ensueinge the date hereof if the said Rowland Mosley or Anthonie Mosley or eith^r of them soe longe live, the said Rowland Mosley, his heires, executo^{rs} and assignes payeing to the said Anthonie Mosley the yearlie some of xx^{li}, to his daughter M'garett xx^{tie} nobles in such man^r and forme as is before in this my last will limited and expressed. Alsoe it is my will and mynde and I doe give and devise to my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, his heires and assignes, all my messuages, landes, tenem^{ts} and hereditam^{ts} in Sale in the countie of Chester, wth all and singuler rentes, revecons, services and hereditam^{ts} to the same belonginge or in any waie app'tayneinge in as large, ample and beneficall man^r as I houlde the same. Alsoe my will and mynde is and I doe hereby assigne ov^r unto my said eldeste sonne Rowland Mosley, and to his executo^{rs} and assignes, my lease of the teithe corne of Heaton Norres, wth all my righte, tytle and intereste therein yett to come and unexpyred, charged and chargeable nev'thelesse wth the some of xx^{li} before by me given to the poore of the towne of Manchester, and alsoe the some of xx^{li} before by me given to the poore of Whithington and Heaton Norres, if the tearme of the lease of the said teithe corne soe long endure. Also whereas I heretofore dyd take a lease of Mr. Langford of the house and grounde wherein I dwell for three score and tenne yeares whereof there bee div'rs yeares yett unexpyred, my will and mynde is and I doe assigne the said lease wth all the revecons of yeares yett unexpyred, and all my intereste of and in my saide house and grounde unto the saide Rowlande Mosley, my said eldeste sonne, his executo^{rs} and assignes duringe all the residue of the said tearme, and upon condicōn that my said sonne Rowlande Mosley shall take upon him the executorshipp of this my laste will. After my fun'all expenses discharged and my debtes payde, I give and bequeath unto him the said Rowland Mosley, my sonne, all the reste of my goodes and cattalles whatsoever moveable and immoveable. And I doe revoake and disannull

all form^r wills heretofore by me made, saveinge onelie my will made to the Wor^{ll} Companie of Cloath workers in London. Alsoe I doe ordaine and make the said Rowlande Mosley, my sonne, sole executo^r of this my laste will and testam^t. And I desire my loveinge nephewes Oswell Mosley and ffancis Mosley, sonnes of my late brother Anthonie Mosley deceased, and my cosins Jacob Procter and Alexander Elcocke to bee sup'visors of this my laste will and testam^t. And if anie contention or variance shall happen, as God forbid, amongst anie of the p'sons in this my laste will named touchenge anie charge therein containyd, given or bequeathed, or oth^rwise, then I shall desire my said sup'visors of this my laste will to bee aydinge and assistinge to my executo^r for the orderinge and endinge of the cause. And I doe give unto ev'rie one of them my said sup'visors l^s. a peece to make ev'rie one of them a ringe to weare for my sake. In witnes whereof I the said S^r Nicholas Mosley to this my laste will and testament have putt my hande and seale the xijth daie of November in the tenth yeare of the raigne of o^r Sov'aigne Lord James, by the grace of God kinge of England, ffrance and Ireland, defendo^r of the ffaithe &c.; and of his highnes raigne of Scotland the xlvjth &c.

Witnesses: — Robert Gee, Robert Barlow, Lawrence Crowder, Will^m Harrinson.

Elizabeth, second wife of Sir Nicholas Mosley, survived her husband about five years, and dying in 1617 was also buried at Didsbury.

WILL OF DAME ELIZABETH MOSLEY.

In the name of God, Amen. I Dame Elizabeth Mosley, widowe, late the wyfe of S^r Nicholas Mosley, Knight, deceased, beinge at this pⁿte sicke in bodie yet of p^rfcte memory (the Lord God be prayسد for it), consideringe that deathe is certaine to all men, and the tyme thereof most incertaine, and beinge desirous to dispose of such quantitie of worldlie goodes as it hath pleased God to blesse me wthall in suche sorte as may tende to the honour of God, the quietnes of my owne minde and the comforte of my friendes

and welwillers, doe make and ordaine this my laste will and testam^t in manner and forme followinge: ffirste therefore and principallie I commend my soule and spirit into the handes of Almighty God my Creator trustinge to be saved by the meritts, death and passion of my alone Savio^r and Redeemer Christe Jesus, to whom be all prayse and glorie ascribed both nowe and ever, Amen: and my bodie I commend to Christian buriall desiringe my executo^{rs} hereafter named that they will cause the same to be decentlie interred in the Chappell of Diddisburie neere to the place where my late husbände S^r Nicholas Mosley was buried, and that in the day tyme and in the company of neighbours and not privilie nor in the night tyme. And yt is my will and desire that my executo^{rs} shall disburse or lay forth one hundred and three score pounds in or about my funerall, or more if they in their owne discrecōns shall thinke it fittinge, whereof and amongst others I would request these p[']sons followinge to were blacke at my fun[']all, either gownes or cloakes, at the discrecōn of myne executo^{rs}, that is to say my sonne-in-lawe S^r Edward Mosley knight, my daughter Mosley and her waytinge gentlewoman, my brother-in-law Oswald Mosley of the Garrett, and his sonne Oswald Mosley, my sister Cudworth, my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates and his wife, my cosen ffrancis Mosley his brother, my brother-in-law Adam Holland and his wife, Margaret Mosley daughter of my sonne Anthonie, Elizabeth Tatton and Margaret Hartley my servants, William Sparke and his wife, Jone Grantham wife of John Grantham, Jane Holland, Robert Barlowe of Heaton, ffrauncis Pendleton, Lawrence Crowther, Edward Chorlton, Richard Chorlton, Robert Brooke, John Twiford, Richard Comelach and Richard Jackson of the Hough End. And for the residewe of my goodes, rightes and credittes (after my fun[']rall expenses discharged) I give and bequeath the same as followeth; and ffirste I give to the poore of the towne of Manchester tenne poundes, and to the poore of the Lordshippe of the Houghe, Chollerton and Heaton Norres tenne poundes; and in signe of my remembrance of my kinsfolkes servantes and

friendes hereafter mencōned, I give and bequeath unto my brother John Rookes of Normanton in Lincolneshire three score and tenne poundes if he be livinge at the tyme of my decease, and if he shall not be then livinge, then the same to be given and distributed to and amongst all his children (exceptinge onlie his sonne Richard.) Item I give to my said nephewe Richard Rookes eldest sonne of my said brother John Rookes three score and tenne poundes if he be livinge, if not then to his children. Item I give to that sonne of my brother Robert Rookes whoe latelie came over with my nephewe Richard Rookes into Lancashire ffive poundes. Item I give to my halfe brother John Rookes of London flortie poundes, to be paid him by five poundes a yeare. Item I give to Marie late wife of my brother William Rookes five poundes. Item I give to my daughter Mosley my best gold bracelettes and my beste peticoate, and to her sonne and daughter either of them a guilte canne. Item I give to Anne Whitmore daughter of William Whitmore of London esquier five markes to buy some pretie jewell to weare for a remembrance from me. Item to my cosen Oswald Mosleyes wife of the Ancoates my lesser gold bracelettes and one of my beste peticoates. Item I give to Margaret Mosley daughter of my sonne Anthonie Mosley twelve poundes, the same to remaine in the handes of my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates untill shee come to sufficient age to give a discharge for the same, and my said cosen to allowe her such profite for the same towards her p'sent maintenance as he in his discrecōn shall thinke ffittinge. Item I give to Nicholas sonne of my said cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates florty shillings. Item I give to Nicholas sonne of my said cosen ffrancis Mosley florty shillings. Item I give towards the bewtifyinge of Diddisbury Chappell five poundes. Item I give to M^{ris} Walker wife of Mr Walker of London, protho-notorie, my velvet cloake and three poundes in money; and to her daughter Elizabeth three poundes; and to M^{ris} Blanche wife of Alexander Glover of London three poundes, to buy them gold rings wthall. Item I give to M^{ris} Anne Page of London flifty poundes and my crimson curtaines and vallences and twoe Mock-

adoc cushions. Item I give to my old servant Robert Hyndley of London £5. Item I give to Robert Swanne of London five poundes. Item I give to olde M^{rs} Prestwich of Hulme three poundes. Item I give to the children of M^r William Gerrard late clerke of the Duchie, deceased, twentie poundes, the same to be distributed amongst them at the discrecōn of M^r ffelixe Gerrard their unckle, because I myself am ignorante howe many of them are nowe livinge or where they remaine. Item I give to the sonnes and daughters of M^r Richard Gerrard late parson of Stockporte deceased to every of them therty shillings a peece. Item I give to Humphrey Davenport esquire ffive poundes, and to his wife my velvett muffle. Item I give to old M^{rs} Sutton my beste hooede. Item to my sonne Anthony Mosley ffive poundes. Item I give to my cosens Ellen Shewell, Alice Cudworth, Anne Mosley, firauncis Mosley, Edward Mosley, Richard Mosley, and Rowland Mosley ffive poundes a peece. Item I give unto Anne Mosley daughter of my cosen Oswald Mosley of the Ancoates ffive poundes. Item I give unto my cosen John Haughtons wife of Manchester three poundes, and to his daughter Judith Haughton my leaste hoope ringe of gold. Item I give to my said servant Elizabeth Tatton my beste bedd wth the vallences, crimson cov'ringe and all the furniture thereunto belonginge, my better greate boxe wth a drawinge tyll therein, one needleworke cushion twoe crimson ymbroydered cushions, my scarlet peticoate wth three gardes of velvet, the one halfe of all such my lynnens as I shall not give or dispose of either by this my will or otherwise, and three score and tenne poundes in money. Item I give to my said servant Margaret Hartley the bedd w^{ch} shee lyeth on wth all the furniture thereunto belonginge, my newer broade boxe w^{thout} any tyll, one needle-worke cushion, twoe crimson ymbroydered cushions, the other halfe of all such my lynnens as I shall not give or dispose of by this my will or otherwise, and therty poundes in money. Item I give to Alice Sparke a table cloathe and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte, twoe of my beste needleworke cushions, and six poundes in money. Item I give to Jone Grantham wife of the

said John Grantham a table cloath and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte and fortie shillings in money. Item I give to the wife of the said Robert Barlowe of Heaton Norres another table cloath and a dosen of napkins of the better sorte and fortie shillings in money. Item I give to Robert Barlowes two aunes fortie shillings a peece. Item I give to Robert Barlowes mother fortie shillings. Item I give to Margaret Robinson wife of Robert Robinson five poundes. Item I give to the minister of Diddisburie for the tyme being fortie shillings. Item to Jane Hollande three poundes; to John fletcher fortie shillings; to Edward Hulme fortie shillings; to Edmund Mosley fortie shillings; to Ottiwell Barlowe five poundes; to William Gibbon fortie shillings; to Ellen Prestwich fortie shillings; to Roger Barlowe twentie shillings; to Margaret Seddon fortie shillings; to James Bireh fortie shillings; to William Langford fortie shillings; to Elizabeth daughter of Robert Brooke twentie shillings; to Anne Walmisley twentie shillings; to Anne Hartley cleaven shillings in gold; to William Harrison three poundes; to old Richard Hartley tenne shillings; to Oliver Hulme tenne shillings; to old James Hartley tenne shillings; to old John Hunt tenne shillings; to Robert Hulme at the Chappell stile in Chollerton tenne shillings; to Alice Hartley twentie shillings; to William Ashton dwellinge neere to Hollynfeyre fortie shillings; to Thomas Renshaw of Sale fortie shillings; to William Garnett fortie shillings; to Robert Brooke fortie shillings, and to his wife twentie shillings; to Lawrence Crowther fortie shillings; to Edward Chorltons wife fortie shillings; to Cecilie Chorlton her daughter-in-lawe to the use of her children fortie shillings; to yonge Alexander Hartleys wife twentie shillings; to Isabell Smyth widdowe twentie shillings; and to every one that shalbe servant in the house at the tyme of my decease and not herein formerlie noiated six shillings and eightpence; to John Tompson sonne of my sister Anne Tompson deceased foure poundes and to his sister Katharine three poundes; to George fletcher twentie shillings; to Ellyn Rudd twentie shillings; to Katharine Chatterton three poundes; to John Lees

twentie shillinges; and more to Margaret Hartley a scarlet petticoate wth twoe gardes of velvet. Item to my sister Hollande five poundes; and to John Brooke fortie shillinges; all the residue of my goodes, rightes and credittes not heerein or heereby formerly given or bequeathed I leave to my executors and overseers heer-after nominated to be disposed of to such person and in such manner and forme as to my said executors and overseers shalbe thoughte fittinge. And of this my laste Will and Testament I doe nominate and intreate my said sonne-in-lawe S^r Edward Mosley Knight and my said cosen Oswald Mosley of Ancoates to be executors, givinge to either of them tenne poundes a peece for their paines, if they or either of them shall proove this my will and take uppon them the charge of the said executorshippe. And I doe likewise nominate and request the said William Sparke and Robert Barlowe to be overseers of this my will, and for their paines to be taken thearein I doe give to either of them tenne poundes a peece. And if the said S^r Edward Mosley Knight and the said Oswald Mosley shall refuse to proove this my will or to be executors thereof, then, and not otherwise, I doe further noiate and appointe the said William Sparke and Robert Barlowe to be executors of this my will, desiringe them to see the same honestlie and dulia p^rformed accordinge to my truste in them reposed. In witness whereof, &c.

The inventory of the goods and chattels of Dame Elizabeth Mosley is dated May 24, 1617, and the total valuation is £1,259 16s. 3d.

Imp.	Best bedd and ffurniture, excepte bed-stokes.....	xij ^{li}	
It.	One scarlet petticoate w th three gardes of velvet	ij ^{li}	x ^s
It.	One scarlet petticoate w th twoe gardes of velvet	ij ^{li}	
It.	One ould scarlet petticoate		xxx ^s
It.	One crimson sattin petticoate	v ^{li}	
It.	One damask petticoate ymbroidred ...	v ^{li}	

It.	One velvett hudd	xx ^s
It.	An ould gowne, a kirtle, a remnante of grogran and twoe yeardes of scyprus	iiij ^{li}
It.	Halfe the rest of the lynnens praised...	xxviiij ^{li} xij ^s
It.	One paire of bracelettes of gould	x ^{li}
It.	Twoe silver cannes, percell guilte	vj ^{li} xiijs iiijd
It.	A broken fflanne	x ^s
It.	An old coache and twoe coache horses	vij ^{li}
It.	One goulde cheane 21 oz. & $\frac{3}{4}$ at lv ^s oz.	lx ^{li}
It.	Three tuns, onc great salte w th a cover, a trencher salt, a standinge salt, three boules, twoe dozen spoones, twoe cannes, one broken boule and broken silver — all waying 174 oz. $\frac{3}{4}$ at v ^s the oz.	xliij ^{li} xiijs ix ^d

By his first marriage Sir Nicholas Mosley left three sons — Rowland his successor, Anthony whose dissolute habits greatly estranged him from his friends, and Edward a barrister of Gray's Inn, M.P. for Preston, who became distinguished in his profession, receiving the appointment of his Majesty's attorney-general of the duchy of Lancaster and the honour of knighthood in 1614, the purchaser of Rolleston, now the chief residence of the Mosley family.

Rowland Mosley Esq., eldest son of the testator, married first, Anne, daughter of Humphrey Houghton of Manchester Gent., and was left a widower in 1613 with one only surviving child, a daughter, Margaret, wife of William Whitmore of Appley in the county of Salop Esq. Within a year of his wife's death he married a second time, Anne, daughter of Francis Sutton Esq., sister and coheiress of Richard Sutton of Sutton in the county of Chester Esq., by whom he left issue an only son, Edward, born in 1616, heir also to his uncle Sir Edward Mosley of Rolleston Knt. Rowland Mosley Esq. was high sheriff of Lancashire in 1616, in which year he died. His inventory, dated March 31, 1617, returns his goods and chattels at £2,709 15s. 2½d. The chief items

enumerated are as follows: Plate, guilt and unguilt, 196^{li}; in armor and munition, 9^{li}; 3 coache mares, 24^{li}; (he had fourteen horses in all); in linneus, 113^{li} 2^s 4^d; in goulde and silver redie in the house, 179^{li} 12^s 1^{ob}; in debtes owinge to him, 654^{li} 7^s 1^d; in bookes and one drumme, 3^{li}.

Edward Mosley Esq., his only son and heir, was a staunch adherent to the royal cause in the civil dissensions which agitated the land during the reign of Charles I. In 1642 he placed Alport Lodge, one of his residences situated in Deansgate, Manchester, at the disposal of Lord Strange, when that nobleman laid siege to Manchester in the King's name. In the following year he joined a detachment of the royalist forces in Cheshire under Sir Thomas Aston and Sir Vincent Corbet, and suffering defeat (March 3) from the parliamentarians under Sir William Brereton, near Middlewich, was taken prisoner. After his release his estates were sequestered, and from an ordinance of Parliament dated September 21, 1647, we find them restored to him on payment of a fine of £4,874 as the punishment of his "delinquency." His attachment to the royal cause entailed upon him other heavy losses. He advanced money on several occasions for the King's use, and that to a large amount, and his property at Alport sustained much injury, the house being burnt to the ground during the siege of Manchester. In 1640 his services were recognized by the King, and a patent of baronetcy was granted to him. In 1642 he was appointed high sheriff of the county of Stafford. He died at Hough's End in 1657, having impoverished himself greatly by his attachment to the King, as well as by his own extravagance.

Amongst the papers &c. left by Humphrey Chetham, the Founder, and now deposited in the hospital in Manchester which bears his name, is a series of letters relating to certain pecuniary obligations incurred by Sir Edward. The total amount of the debt owing to Mr. Chetham appears to have been about £4,000, and the mother and sister of Sir Edward had become sureties for its repayment. A Mr. Allestrye was also concerned in the negotiation as a creditor of Sir Edward, and several letters written by

his brother, a lawyer, who conducted the business for him, are included in the series. The repayment of the loan was guaranteed by a bond dated August 20, 1641, and bearing the signatures of Sir Edward, his mother, and sister; and though the agreement between the contracting parties was but for one year, Mr. Chetham does not seem to have thought of enforcing his claim for repayment until after the expiration of several years, satisfied probably with the nature of his security and the rate of interest promised (eight per cent. per ann.) for the accommodation. After a long correspondence with Mrs. and Miss Mosley, Sir Edward's sureties, to whom recourse was first had by Mr. Chetham in the belief that they would be able to influence Sir Edward in making the restitution sought for, an action was commenced in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, and judgment obtained against Sir Edward in Trinity Term 1649. At this time Mr. Chetham's claim stood as follows:—

The principall lent 24 ^o August 1641.....	2000 00 00
Interest for 2000 ^{li} from 24 ^o August 1641 to	
14 ^o Martij 1649, being 8 yeares 6	
monthes and $\frac{1}{2}$ at 160 ^{li} p ann. w ^{ch} is	
13 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d p mensem, amounts to.....	1366 13 04
Charges of suit.....	0061 05 00
	<hr/>
	3427 17 04
Whereof rec ^d December 1648	600 00 00
	<hr/>
Soe remaines 14 ^o Martij 1649 ...	2827 18 04
	<hr/>

On the award being made, Sir Edward consented to a mortgage of his Leicestershire estate as a means of satisfying Mr. Chetham's claim. It was proposed moreover to make the estate available for the liquidation of a like claim on the part of Mr. Allestrye, Sir Edward stipulating for a power of redemption within ten years, which was acceded to. Difficulties however arose in the legal bearings of the question, and after the negotiation had advanced

to some length, Mr. Chetham, having obtained counsel's opinion, declined to proceed further, and sought the repayment of his money from some other less debateable source. What that source was cannot now be ascertained, as the protracted correspondence on the subject between Mr. Chetham and Mr. Allestrye here ceases. The first letter is without date and is from Mrs. Anne Mosley, the mother of Sir Edward, addressed "For the right worshipfulle and my verie good friend Mr. Chittame at Cleaton p'sent this."

Sr,

I have found you sooe kinde to me and mine that it dothe imbouldins me to intrete you in my soones be halfe. My soon, not abill to give you suche content as was fiting he should, was a shamed to com to you; not nowe I trowe his foule bisnis was herd this desenet [day se'nnight] and I thank God welended, [well ended] for him. Divers of his frendes and contremen was at the hering of it. Thowe the mater was nout¹ yet it was not sooe ill as she pretended it was. I pre God blese him forth of shouehe compeney as she is. I hope it will be a warning to him hereafter to medill withe suche as she is. My desire is that you will plesse not to put your bound [bond] in sute at this terme. He will dowe his in dever to give you content; the latered of his composicion nowe is to be pede this terme, and that being doon I hope he will give satisfacktion, whiche shale be the desire of her that is your hombil frend.

ANNE MOSLEY.

The next letter is written by Anne Mosley, the sister of Sir Edward, and daughter of the above Anne Mosley. It is dated "Houghend, this 4th of June, 1645," and is addressed "To the right woorp¹ Humphery Cheatham Esquire at his house, Cleaton, these present."

¹ A Lancashire word signifying bad, discreditable.

Good Sr,

I am very sorrey that way wee have hearetofore discourst of will not give you content, for I am confident, and have had the opinion of verey good laweyrs, that you might have had a good assurance of it that way, and it would have added much to my content to have scene you sertine of that which would have brought you your monyes in good tyme in these uncertine dayes, which I pray God to amend, and then I doubt not but wee shall bee able to performe with all; but for haveing to doe this way which you mention in your letter I cannot concent to. But if there bee any other way you shall thinke of, I shall bee redy to give you the best satisfaction I can; and soe with my service to you I take leave, and remayne

Your honoring freind and servant,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Sr,

I am sorry you should doubte of mee that I would not ether have returned you your pledge or security to your minde, for I assure you I mene nothing but iustly.—My mother presents her love to you.

From the same to the same.

Worthy Sr,

I thanke you for yo^r last paynes and kyndnesse and for that greate favor you were then pleased to affoord me in yo^r patient forbearance of my brother's debt, wherein I was then in good hope you would have received satisfac^on before this tyme. I understand my brother hath bene lately wth you, and I feare hath bene more free in his promises then in p^rformance. I beseech you give me leave (beinge imboldened by yo^r former curtesies) once more to become an earnest suitor to you for a little further forbearance, w^{ch} (God willinge) shall not be in any wise preiudiciall unto you. I am uppon Monday next for my journey to London, where I intend to make a finall conclusion for my owne

businessse wth Sr Samuell Sleigh concerninge the money he is to pay me, and shall lykewise (I hope) putt an end to some thinge betweenc my brother and me, and att my returne from London, which I feare will be neere Midsom̄er (if my brother in the meane tyme satisfye you not) my motlier and my selfe will assuredly (if God blesse us wth lyfe) passe over unto you o^r intereste in the Leicestershire landes, w^{ch} wee are nowe ascerteyned from a freind in Leicester are of the fully yearlie value of seaven hundred poundes or neare thereaboutes. This shall be my last request unto you in this businessse, w^{ch} if I may obteyne shall be added to my former ingagem^{tes}. Thus for the p^rformance of what I have here undertaken you shall have that w^{ch} I shall ever tenderly p^rserve, viz^t the wordes and promise of

Your much obliged freind and servant,

ANNE MOSLEY.

The enclosed note conteyneth the rent of Beamond

Leas alone, besydes w^{ch} wee have in o^r security

Glenfeild manno^r and Jelly rowe, w^{ch} will make up the yearlie sōme I men^con in my tre.

This letter is addressed "To my much honor^d freind Humfrey Chetham Esq. att Turton theise present;" and is endorsed by him, "Mrs. Anne Mosley tre rec^d 25 Apr. 1648."

From the same to the same.

S^r,

I cannot but acknowledge yo^r greate respect in yo^r longe and patient forbearance, w^{ch} I hope in the conclusion will be in noe wise preiudiciall to you. I am newly come from London, and soe soone as I have a little rested my selfe I intend to come to Honghe End, and then to wayt uppon you and to give you the best satisfac^con I maye; onely I desire (if it may be) that my brother might discharge it himselfe as he hath promised, and as Mr. Allestrye affirmed his inten^con really was to pay you a good sōme before Bartholemewtyde; but if that fayle I shall not re-

cede from any thinge I have formerly promised to you, whereof be pleased to rest assured. From,

S^r, your much obliged freind and servant,
Sutton, 6th Junii, 1648. ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To my much honord freind Humfrey Cheatham Esquire att Cleyton theise present."

The next letter in the series is signed by the mother and sister of Sir Edward, and, like the preceding letters, entreats the continued forbearance of Mr. Chetham.

S^r,

After yo^r longe and extraordinary patience, if you will be pleased to add a further forbearance of putting o^r bond in suite till Michaellmas next, and that in the meane tyme you receive not such satisfac^{on} as you shall lyke of from the principall, wee will assuredly att that tyme either convey unto you o^r estate in the Leicestershire landes or otherwise satisfye you accordinge as you shall desire. And for yo^r better assurance hereof wee subscribe o^r selves

Yo^r very lovinge and much obliged freindes,

ANNE MOSLEY.

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To o^r much honrd freind Humfrey Chetham Esq^r. att Cleayton theise present;" endorsed by him, "Mrs. Mosley and her daughter Mrs. Anne, June 15, 1648."

From Mr. William Allestrye to Miss Anne Mosley.

M^{ris} Mosley,

Haveing imparted yo^r letter to yo^r brother hee is very sorrye you should bee put to any trouble concerninge his occasions. Wee intended this su^mer to have beene in Lancashire and to have made an end wth Mr. Cheetam before now, but the troubles in those p^tes p^rvented us. Yo^r brother desires to knowe from Mr. Cheetam what hee expects from him for interest for the time past; hee hopes hee will deale well with him therein. However hee is

resolved to referr it to him, and yf hee doe not pay Mr. Cheetam both principall and interest be fore Christmas next, or att least make paymt^t of one halfe and such securitye as hee shall like of for the other halfe, he is contented yo^u should assigne yo^r estate in Beamont Leas to him for his security; but yf Mr. Cheetam will lett him knowe his utmost demand both for principall and interest and when hee expects paymt^t, hee is resolved be fore Christmas to give him satisfacōn; and in regard p'sent sale may bee losse to yo^r brother, hee hopes upon satisfacōn given to Mr. Cheetam yo^u will assigne over yo^r estate to whome yo^r brother ap-
poynts. This is all wee shall now trouble yo^u wth, onely desire a speedy answer from Mr. Cheetam, to whome there is nothinge intended but iust dealeinge from

Yo^r true freind and ready servant,

Derby, 5 Octobr, 1648.

WILLM. ALLESTRYE.

I fully agree to this letter,

EDW. MOSLEY.

From Humphrey Chetham Esq. to Miss Anne Mosley.

M^{ris} Mosley,

My tender respect to your reputacōn especialie and your ffriends bound wth you, have caused mee att your request agayne and agayne, ffrom yeare to yeare and from tearme to tearme, to fforbeare my great sōme of mony w^{ch} should longe since have beene p^d me, and wherin I have undergonne great hasard these troublesome tymes, wherin I did not doubt but my courtesie would have beene answered wth more correspondent respect ffrom you, and especialie that whereas by your last importunetie you ingaged your selfe wth your mother, under both your hands, that yf I would but fforbeare untill Micklemas now past, I should wthout ffayle have satisfaxiō, w^{ch}, although I have continued my patience even to the outemost of your desier, yet I ffynd noe p^fformance ffrom you. Once agayne therfore I shall beseech you that you will give mee noe longer cause to suspect your truth and good meaning towards mee, but doe that w^{ch} both the lawe of

God and man requires ffrom you, and w^{ch} you may doe w^{thout} p^riudice or detrement to your selfe when you please, and soe I shall ever rest

Your ffaythful ffreind and servant,

Octob^r 6th, 1648.

HUMFREY CHETHAM.

From Miss Anne Mosley to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

Worthy S^r,

I am not unmyndfull of yo^r longe forbearance from tyme to tyme nor of my ingagement to you under my hand. I have earnestly endeavoured yo^r satisfac^{on} from my brother by applyinge my selfe to his counsell, from whome I received the inclosed, to w^{ch} I intreate yo^r present answe^r to soe much as p^rticularly concernes yo^r selfe, w^{ch} I shall speed to my brother and returne you his answe^r. I acknowledge yo^r greate respectes, and shall (God willinge) soe tenderly preserve my reputa^{on} in the right p^rformance of what I have promised that you shall have noe cause of complaint against me; yet I desire, soe farre as iustly I may, to p^rforme that sisterly respect that befittes to a brother w^{thout} preiudice to you, or any intention, the least tittle, to recede from what I have undertaken to you, unlesse by yo^r owne cōsent. And soe be pleased, good S^r, to understand me, and to beleeve that I am

S^r, your verey much obliged freind and servant,

Sutton, 7^o Octob^r, 1648.

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "ffor my truly honord ffreind Humfrey Chetham Esq^r att Cleyton theise."

This was followed by letters excusing further delay, dated respectively October 16, 23, and 30, all written by Miss Mosley. On the 3rd of November she again addresses Mr. Chetham, expressing a hope that an interview which had recently taken place between him and her brother had been attended with satisfactory results; and after this an interval of two months elapses before the correspondence is resumed.

From Mr. Allestrye to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

S^r,

Yesterday I received two letters from you, yet by sev'all hands. I did about a week since writ to you w^{ch} I hope by this tyme you have received. By yo^r last I presume you are willing to let S^r Edward have the power of redemp^con himself, so he allowe yo^r w^{ch} my brother is likewise content to doe. As yet I have not spoken wth S^r Edw. Moseley, but I purpose uppō Saturday to ride over to lime, and yf I find him to deale cleverely wth me and deliv' me his ancient evidences and conclude wth me how the £8,000 shall be paid, then I will forth wth drawe the aftr and send them to you. However you shall by the next und^rstand what end wee make. Soe wth my best respects presente unto you I rest

Yo^r very loving freind and ready servant,

Derby, 3 January.

WILLM. ALLESTRYE.

Addressed To his "much honoured freind Humphry Chetham Esq. at his house at Cleyton these;" endorsed "M^r Allestree, 3^o Jan. 1649."

From Mrs. Anne Mosley to Humphrey Chetham Esq.

S^r,

I and my douter Anne have allwes found you sooe fafrabill to hous since wee were com to be bound to you in the grete soom of mone for my sone, and nowe he is wiling to give you foule satisfacktion for all that is past and acording to the a griment at London of your selfe or by your selister and Mr. Allastre. It was a gride that you and Mr. Allastre should have an absolute bargain of Lestersher land, and then you and Mr. Allastre was contented to selle a dafasanes [?] to my soon, that when your moneye was pede to you withe in suche a time as it was a gride on at London, my sone was to enter on his land a gene. My desire is, that as you have bine kind to hous at all times that you will be plesed to show hous sooe much kindnes to conferme the agriment allrede

concluded on; in soe doing you shall oblige hous to pre for your hapenes. And soe I rest

Your faithful frend,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To my honoured frend Humphrey Chectom Esqr at his house at Cleton these p'sent."

From the same to the same.

Sr,

I did here that my sone sent oup Mr. Brogrefe [? Borough-reeve] to conclude of the agriment betwixt him selfe and you and Mr. Allestrey. I thinke my coson Nikolas Mosley of the Colihorst was on for my sone, and I am a shoured he was on at the agrement that was a gride on at London. I could have wised withe all my harte that my soon hade bine as wiling to have a gride to you at first as nowe he is willing to have a ende made on it. My coson Nikolas tould me that he would com to you this wike to tolke withe you a bout this bisnis, and ether this wike or the be giuing of the next wik he ment to gooe to Mr. Alestrey to speke withe him a bout this bisnises truly. I herde of seven pounce in the hondred that the wer a gride on at London, but to demand eite pound in the hondred more then was a gride on it is nowe Mr. Alestray dowing and not yours. Howe ever I hope my sone will give you content if it liee in his poure. I can give no absolut answer for my sone, but I will send to my coson Nikolas Mosley to see if hee will gooe to speke to my soone and Mr. Allastrey, whiche I hope he will dowe, and if he will not I will send on to them my selfe, thowe I knowe non is sooe fit to gooe as he is. I hope he will dowe sooe that all thes bisnisis mite be endes. Thus withe my servis I rest

Your obliged frend,

ANNE MOSLEY.

Addressed "To the writ worshipfoule my honored frend hounfrey Chitom esquire present this;" endorsed "M^{rs} Moseley, Jan^y 1649."

From Humphrey Chetham Esq. to Mr. Allestrye.

S^r,

I writt to yo^u about three weekes since in answer of yo^r tre sent mee frō London, to signify unto yo^u my aprobaçon of yo^r propositions touching y^e purchase of y^e Leicester shire landes. I inclosed also a copy of y^e lease according to yo^r desire, and haveing rec^d noe answer frō yo^u in a fortnightes time, about a weeke agoe I sent yo^u a copy of my form^r lest the former should miscarried. I doubt not but either my first tre or the late copy of it, or both, are or will shortly come unto you, to which I desire some speedy answer, yt if there bee any stop in y^e accomplishm^t of those p^rtences and offers made by S^r Edward or his freinds for giving satisfacçon of my debt by sale of the landes I may not bee delayed upon such expectaçons from takeing my remedy y^e best way I can. I have little to adde to what I have formerly written, but onely this, that I p^rceive S^r Edw. hath writt to his mother that hee desires a power of redempçon for himselfe: his mother also desires the same. Now if wee have the rentes duely paid to us in the meane time, and that both hee and his childes freinds are more willing and thinke it safer to have it soe, I cannot see any more inconvenience to us to leave y^e redempçon in him paying 8^{li} p cent, then if his sonne have it at 7^{li}. Howsoever I gave an absolute deniall to leave S^r Edward any such power, because I knew not how you might approve of it, by whom I must bee very much guided in this busines, inasmuch as you are able in divers respectes to foresee many advantages or inconveniences which I cannot; soe that I am resolved not to make any promises or agreem^{ts} before I understand yo^r opinion thereof. Soe with y^e reñbr of my due respectes I rest, &c.

Endorsed, "L^re to M^r Allestre, Jan. 13^o 1649."

The result of this correspondence, as already stated, was an action brought by Mr. Chetham against Sir Edward for the recovery of his debt, in which a verdict was given in the plaintiff's favour.

Sir Edward Mosley was succeeded by his son Edward, the second baronet of the name, then in his minority, but who in 1661, having by that time reached full age, was returned to Parliament as M.P. for St. Michael's, in the county of Cornwall. This representative of the family purchased the Hulme estate from the Prestwich family, and obtained an act of Parliament confirming the sale in 1661. He married Katharine, daughter of William Lord Grey of Wark, and dying without issue in 1665 brought to a close the male line in direct descent from Sir Nicholas Mosley the lord mayor of London.

His will is dated December 18, 1660, wherein he describes himself as of Rolleston, in the county of Stafford, baronet. He commends his soul to God, and desires that his body may be decently buried in Didsbury Church, willing his funeral expenses "to bee moderate, not exceedinge eight hundred pounds nor less than 400^{li}." He gives to Anne Mosley, his grandmother, the several lands &c. called The Roger Fields, The Woodhends, The Great Bent, The Little Bent, The Edmund Acre, The Mosley Meadow, The Great and Little Priest Field, and all the boones and services (other than the rents) reserved or payable out of his lands or tenements, parcel of the manor of Heaton Norris, for her natural life. To his aunt Mosley he gives for her life the five Park Fields, the farm called the Turve Mosse, all his lands in Chorlton, and all that capital messuage called The Hough End, now in the occupation of his grandmother, being her jointure. To his cousin Nicholas Mosley of Ancoats and his heirs he gives all his lands, tenements &c. in the county of Derby; all his lands, tenements, mill and coalpits in Kersley, in the county of Lancaster; all his lands and tenements which were conveyed to him by his said grandmother, lying in the county of Chester; all that his farm in Staffordshire, called The Barley Fields; and all his lands in Newton Lane, in the county of Lancaster. To his cousin Anthony Mosley, citizen of London, he gives for his life all that his farm, called Tudbury Woodhouse, in the county of Stafford; and after his decease he gives the same to his (testator's) cousin Anthony

Mosley, grandchild to the aforesaid Anthony, and the heirs male of his body. To his cousin Anne Mosley of Collyhurst he gives all that his farm and lands and mill now in her tenure and occupation in Collyhurst; to have and to hold the same for a term of thirty-one years, to commence after the determination of a lease thereof made by Sir Edward Mosley, his father, to Mr. Francis Mosley, her grandfather. To Mr. John Aleyn of Gray's Inn — [here follows an erasure of eight lines in the will, and a marginal note dated August 10, 1663, "upon the death of Mr. Aleyn I have cancelled the gift of the land I intended to have given him."] He gives to Richard Crowder and his heirs all that his tenement in Davyhulme now in the tenure or occupation of the widow Faulkner, and also those three several tenements heretofore let to him the said Richard Crowther for two lives, lying in Manchester aforesaid; to hold the same for a term of thirty-one years. To John Bate and his heirs he gives the tenement in Davyhulme now in the tenure of Thomas Rogers. To Mary Barlow, wife of John Barlow his servant, all that his tenement in Lowstock, called Ottwell's Tenement. He gives to his executors and their heirs all that his tenement in Davyhulme, now in the tenure of James Shaw, "in trust for the keepinge of a schoole and schoolemaster in Didsbury aforesaid, to bee settled accordeinge to the discrecion of my executors." He gives to his executors his manors of Manchester, Hulme and Cheadle, in trust for the payment of his debts, legacies and funeral expenses, or so much of them as his personal estate shall not suffice to satisfy. All the rest of his lands, estate of inheritance in fee-simple, he gives to his sister Mary Mosley and her heirs for ever, directing that if his cousin Nicholas Mosley aforesaid, or his heirs, shall oppose or disturb the execution of this his (testator's) will, that then his devise made to the said Nicholas Mosley of the tenements and premises aforesaid shall be utterly void and of no effect. He constitutes as his executors his loving aunt Anne Mosley and Mr. John Aleyn of Gray's Inn; revoking all former wills and reserving power to himself by any codicil or codicils to make such other devises or bequests as to himself shall seem meet. Witnesses: Nicholas Burwell, Ri. Criche.

It seems certain that the provisions of the above abstracted will never took effect, although the document itself (or rather a transcript of it) has found a resting-place in the Bishop's Registry at Chester, as if duly proved. In the "Family Memoirs" of the Mosleys a later disposition of his property is said to have been made by the testator, the second will bearing date October 13, 1665, within a week of his death. By this will he directs that, in the event of his dying without male issue, all his manors, lordships, messuages, tenements and hereditaments should, after the expiration of the term of fifteen years, descend to his cousin Edward Mosley, son of Edward Mosley of Hulme Esq. and great grandson of Anthony Mosley of Ancoats Esq., the younger brother of Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., and to his heirs male, and for want of such issue then to the said Edward Mosley Esq. and his heirs male, upon condition, nevertheless, that the same Edward Mosley the father, or his executors, shall within five years after his (testator's) decease, purchase with his own money, but to be reimbursed unto him or them with interest out of the profits, rents and issues of the said premises hereby by testator demised as aforesaid unto his said cousin Edward Mosley and his heirs (so soon as may be after the fifteen years ended and expired), so much land &c. within the realm of England as the purchase thereof will bonâ fide amount and come to £7,000, of and for a good estate in fee-simple in the names of himself and his (testator's) aunt Anne Mosley; and that they and their heirs shall within six months after such purchase settle, convey and assure the same to the use of the said Nicholas Mosley and his assigns for his life, and after his decease to the said Oswald Mosley and his heirs male, with other remainders over to all the other sons of the said Nicholas, and for want of such issue then to the use of the said Edward Mosley Esq., his heirs and assigns for ever. And in case his (testator's) cousin Edward Mosley Esq., his executors or administrators, shall fail or neglect in the purchase and settlement of the same lands, then the uses before herein limited of his (testator's) said own lands unto the said Edward Mosley the son and the heirs male of his

body, and to the said Edward Mosley the father and the heirs male of his body, shall cease, end and determine, and then and in that case, or in case of the performance of the said condition, and that the said Edward, son of the said Edward Mosley Esq., and the said Edward Mosley Esq., shall both of them die without male issue, then he bequeaths all his aforesaid manors, lordships &c. (except before herein excepted) unto his said aunt Anne Mosley and his said cousin Edward Mosley Esq. and their heirs, to the intent and purposes and upon trust and confidence that the said Anne Mosley and Edward Mosley Esq., or their heirs, shall settle the reversions and remainders thereof upon such of the sons of the said Nicholas Mosley as they shall think most fit and most worthy and hopeful, and to the heirs male of his or their bodies, with other remainders over to such other persons of the name and blood of him the said Sir Edward Mosley and to the heirs male of their bodies, as to the said Anne Mosley and Edward Mosley Esq. and their heirs shall be thought fit, for it is his desire that his said lands and tenements &c. shall and may remain in his name and blood so long as it shall please God to permit the same.

Edward Mosley of Hulme, or, as he afterwards became, Sir Edward Mosley Knt., on whom the estates were by the latter will entailed, was the second son of Oswald Mosley of Ancoats Esq. and grandson of Anthony Mosley Esq. of the same place, the younger brother of Sir Nicholas. He was a barrister of some eminence, and was one of the commissioners for the administration of justice in Scotland, an office continued to him during the period of the Commonwealth. Scarcely had he taken possession when he was menaced on all sides by threats of legal proceedings on the part of claimants under both wills of the deceased baronet, threats which were speedily carried into execution. Mary Mosley, the testator's only sister, to whom the reversion of several valuable estates had been bequeathed under the first will, finding herself altogether disinherited by the second, disputed through her husband, Joseph Maynard Esq., the validity of the later instrument. Another action was entered against him, as principal executor, by

the creditors of the late baronet to compel the payment of their several debts, whilst a third suit was commenced in chancery by his brother Nicholas to enforce the performance of that part of the will which had relation to himself and the provision designed for him by the testator. At length, after much contention, terms were agreed upon and a partition of the estates took place, contemplated by neither of the disputed documents. The Leicestershire property, consisting of the manor of Glenfield and lands in Kirkby Anstey and Thurecaston passed to Joseph Maynard Esq. in right of his wife Mary. The reversion of the Staffordshire estates, after the death of Lady North (widow of the testator), who held them in jointure, were secured to Oswald Mosley Esq., eldest son of Nicholas Mosley of Ancoats, deceased, in lieu of the £7,000 to be invested in land for his benefit; the manor of Manchester also to be left to him and his heirs by the will of his uncle Edward, subject to a life interest in favour of his (Edward's) daughter Ann, the wife of Sir John Bland Bart., in case he should die without males issue; whilst the rest of the property, consisting of Bread-sall Park or Priory in the county of Derby, of Hulme Hall and manor, Hough or Hough End Hall and all the lands in Didsbury, Withington, Heaton Norris and Chorlton, in the county of Lancaster, and Cheadle Mosley near Stockport in the county of Chester, were still to remain at the free disposal of Sir Edward Mosley.¹

Sir Edward Mosley Knt. married Jane Meriel, daughter of Richard Saltonstall of Huntwick in the county of York Gent., who survived him. In 1689 he was knighted by William III. at Whitehall. He died in 1695, leaving an only daughter and heiress (his three sons, Nicholas, Edward and Francis having preceded him to the tomb) Anne, wife of Sir John Bland of Kippax in the county of York Bart. He was buried at Didsbury. In his will, dated May 24, 1695, he is described as Sir Edward Mosley of Hulme Knight. He resigns his soul with all humility and thankfulness to God, his Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and his body to the grave, to be privately interred without all unnecessary charge. He gives, devises and bequeaths the manors of Withington and

¹ *Family Memoirs*, by Sir Oswald Mosley Bart., p. 29.

Heaton Norris, with all the lands &c. to the same belonging (except such parts thereof as were settled at the marriage of his daughter with Sir John Bland, and except one tenement therein, called Burches Tenement, at the Moss-side, which he gives to his sister Mosley of the Ancoats and to her heirs for ever), to his son-in-law Sir John Bland and to his daughter the Lady Bland during their lives and the life of the survivor of them; and after the death of his said daughter and son-in-law Sir John Bland, he gives and devises the same to the first, second and other sons of the said Sir John Bland and the said Lady Bland successively and to the heirs male of the body of such sons successively, and for want of such issue, and also as to all the rest of the lands &c. settled on the said Sir John Bland and the said Lady Bland and their sons successively at the time of their marriage, to the sons of his (testator's) said daughter the Lady Bland begotten by any other husband successively and to their heirs male; with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley of the Ancoats Esq. and his heirs for ever, chargeable, notwithstanding, with a clear yearly rent of £150, to be paid to his (testator's) wife out of the rents and profits of the said lands &c., to be paid to her by half yearly payments at Michaelmas and Lady Day. And further, that the sum of four pounds per annum shall be yearly paid out of the rents and profits of the same unto the churchwardens of the church of Didsbury for the use of the poor of Withington and Heaton Norris aforesaid, to be paid yearly until some lands of the like value shall be settled upon them for ever. And his further will and mind is, that the said manors of Withington and Heaton Norris shall be in lieu and satisfaction of all covenants and engagements made in the settlement made at his said daughter's marriage; and his further will and mind is, that if his said daughter the Lady Bland die without issue male, so that the said estate come into the hands of his said nephew Oswald Mosley or his heirs, that then the said estate shall remain and be chargeable with the payment of £5,000 unto or for the use of the daughter or daughters of the said Lady Bland as they shall be living at the time of Lady Bland's decease. Also, he gives his two tenements at or near Bury in Lancashire afore-

said to his son-in-law Sir John Bland and his heirs for ever in lieu and satisfaction of one tenement in Withington, which he (testator) sold to William Alcock ; and his desire is that his said son-in-law Sir John Bland will not alter or question that deed or any other deed, lease, contract or agreement which he (testator) has made with his tenants or others, but will confirm the same. Also, he gives the manor of Hulme in the county of Lancaster, together with one field adjoining thereunto called the Lower Lodge Ground, to his dear and loving wife during her life, which with what he has before given and devised unto her is in lieu and satisfaction of her dower ; and after the death of his said wife he gives and devises the same to his said daughter the Lady Bland, with remainder as before to her sons in succession, with remainder to his (testator's) nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever. Also, he gives and bequeaths that tenement in Cheadle in the county of Chester, now or late in the possession of Mr. Kelsall, to his brother Francis Mosley and his heirs male. Also, he gives the manor of Cheadle in the county of Chester aforesaid, except the said tenement called Kelsall's Tenement, to his said daughter the Lady Bland, with remainder as before to her sons in succession, with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever. Also, he gives the manor of Manchester in the county of Lancaster, and all other his messuages, lands, tenements, &c., not before herein disposed of, except the said field called the Lower Lodge Ground, to his said daughter during her life, with remainder to his nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs for ever, — upon this condition, nevertheless, that what he (testator) has before hereby given and bequeathed to his said nephew Oswald Mosley and his heirs is only given upon this condition, that if the said Oswald Mosley, his heirs or assigns shall any way disturb, hinder or oppose this settlement by will, or any part thereof, or shall lay claim to any part of the said manors, lands, &c., otherwise than as is hereby limited, appointed and settled upon his said nephew Oswald Mosley, that then, and in that case, his will is, that all the estates to him the said Oswald Mosley and his heirs before hereby bequeathed shall be void and cease and determine, and that the same shall remain and come to his (tes-

tator's) said daughter the Lady Bland and to her heirs for ever. Also, he gives and bequeaths three pounds per annum, to be paid yearly for twenty-one years, unto the preacher at Didsbury that shall be there by consent of the lord of the manors of Withington and Heaton Norris, to be paid by the said lord for the time being out of the rents and profits of the said lordships. Also, he gives to his sister Case twenty pounds, and to Mr. Henry Newcome the elder twenty pounds. Also, he gives fifty pounds to be distributed amongst his domestic servants at the discretion of his executrix. He makes his loving wife his sole executrix, revoking all other wills formerly made. Witnesses: John Frankland, William Garnett, Nat. Corles.

The marriage of Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Mosley with Sir John Bland was solemnized in 1685 at Chorlton Chapel, and, notwithstanding the fair promise of happiness at first afforded, it proved most disastrous. Sir John gave early indications of a love of dissipation, and with the increased opportunities of indulgence furnished by his wife's ample fortune he threw off all restraint, and by his addiction to the gaming-table reduced himself to the verge of ruin. He was chosen representative of the borough of Appleby in Westmoreland, and afterwards sat for Pontefract in Yorkshire. He died in 1715, and was buried at Didsbury, where a monument was erected to his memory, conveying anything but a true estimate of his character. His widow long survived him, and made Hulme Hall her principal residence. On the 18th of May, 1709, she laid the foundation stone of St. Ann's Church, Manchester, which was so named in compliment to her; she was one of the chief contributors to the cost of its erection, and at its consecration, July 17, 1712, gave also a portion of the communion plate and the velvet covering for the communion table. She died in 1734, and was buried at Didsbury.

Her will is dated June 20, 1721, in which she describes herself as Dame Anne Bland of Hulme in the county of Lancaster, widow and relict of Sir John Bland, late of Kippax Park in the county of York, Bart. deceased. She commends her soul to Almighty God, hoping through the satisfaction and righteousness of Christ, her Redeemer,

to be made partaker of eternal happiness ; and her body she commits to the earth, to be decently buried at Didsbury as conveniently to her late dear husband Sir John Bland deceased as may be, at the discretion of her executor. And as for all her real and personal estate, she gives and bequeaths the same in manner and form following : First, she wills her just debts, funeral charges and expenses of probate to be paid and satisfied. She then recites certain articles of agreement, bearing date November 3, 1720, made between herself and her son-in-law Thomas Davison of Blakiston in the county of Durham Esq., wherein she promises to pay the said Thomas Davison the sum of one thousand pounds on the day of her death ; in pursuance of which covenant and agreement she hereby directs the payment of the aforesaid sum, declaring it to be in full satisfaction and discharge of and for all such covenants and agreements as she has entered into in the aforesaid articles. She gives and devises to her daughter Meriel Jacob her best pair of diamond ear-rings and also the sum of one hundred pounds. She charges her manor and lordship of Withington and all and every her messuages, lands, rents, &c. in Withington, and all other her manors, lands, &c. whatsoever and wheresoever, as well with the payment of all her debts, funeral charges and legacies, as with the payment of such debts of her late husband Sir John Bland as she stands obliged to pay ; which manors, lands, rents, &c. so charged she leaves to her son Sir John Bland of Kippax Park in the county of York Bart., to have and to hold the same so charged and chargeable as aforesaid to her said son Sir John Bland, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns for ever. She constitutes her said son Sir John Bland executor of this her will, and revokes all former wills. And further, it is her earnest request to her said son Sir John Bland, that in case of failure of issue of his body he would sometime in his lifetime, either by will or any other writing, convey and settle the said real estate or so much thereof as he shall stand seised of at the time of his decease, as that the same may come and be enjoyed by her said daughter Meriel Jacob and by the heirs of her body ; and for default of such issue, by her (testatrix) grandson Thomas Davison and the heirs of his body ; and for



Drawn & Engraved by James Frost

Revels & Brown's "Mural"

High End,

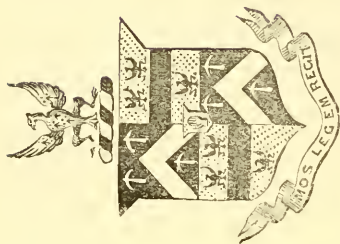
THE ANCIENT SEAT OF THE MOSLEYS

default of such issue, that the same may come and be enjoyed by her cousin Francis Mosley of Rolleston in the county of Stafford, clerk, for and during the term of his natural life, and after his decease by the first son and all and every other son and sons of the body of her said cousin Francis Mosley begotten successively in tail male — the elder of such son and sons and the heirs males of his and their body and bodies being ever preferred before the younger and the heirs males of his and their body and bodies. In witness whereof, &c. Witnesses: G. Pigot, Jno. Greene, Will. Broome.

Lady Anne Bland died, as has been already stated, in 1734, and was succeeded in the inheritance by her son Sir John Bland, who both bore his father's name and shared his father's vices. The provision made in the later clauses of her will for perpetuating the descent of the estates in her family was frustrated by the reckless extravagance of the new heir, who soon completed the ruin commenced by his father. Hulme manor passed in 1751 to George Lloyd of Manchester Esq., and the manor of Withington about the same time to the Egertons of Tatton, in whom it is at present vested.

Hough End, for several generations the residence of the Mosley family, was erected in the later years of the reign of Elizabeth, and, though always of modest proportions, may yet be considered a fair example of the style of domestic architecture of the period. At the present day, with its ivy-covered walls, its clustered chimneys and its gabled roof, it presents a picturesque and pleasing appearance. It is built entirely of stone, and comprises a centre with a bay at each end a little advanced from the main structure; the latter, of three stories, lighted by square-headed windows divided into lights by substantial stone mullions, and transomed, the upper structure gabled and ornamented with the usual ball ornament of the period. The centre is of two stories only, lighted by windows similar in character to those just described, and surmounted by a parapet forming a triplet gable. The entrance appears to have been originally by a gabled porch at the east end of the building, but this has since been built up and its place supplied by a doorway penetrating the south front. It is now occupied as a farm-house.

Mosley of Hough End.



Jenkyn Mosley of Withington Gent. =
temp. Edw. IV.

James Mosley of Withington, wt. 21 =
6 Hen. VII.

Edward Mosley, = Margaret, dau. of Alexander Elcock
died 1571.

Elizabeth, dau. of ² Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt. = Margaret, dau.
John Ropes Gent. purchased the manor of
and relict of Manchester, 1598. Lord
Homiley of the city Mayor of London 1599;
of London Gent.; ob. 1612, at 87; will dat.
died 8th, and bur.; 12 Nov. 1612. Int. bur. at
at Didsbury May 27; Didsbury Dec. 8, 1612.
1617; will proved at
Chester 1617.

3 Anthony Mosley
of Ancoats.

..... = Oswald Mosley = Cicely, dau.
eldest dau. of Garrett, par- chased Garrett
of Rev. Dr. Hall 1595; died
Gerrard, Tipping of
Rector of Manchester
Stockport. Gent.

Margaret, wife of
William Prestley
of London.

Oswald =
died be- fore his
father.

Rowland,
died be- fore his
father.

Francis =
Francis =

Mary, mar. John
Vandrey of Ryd-
ding co. Chester
Gent.

Oswald.

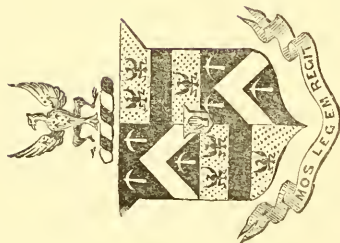
Francis, = Ellen, dau. of James
only son. Lancashire; mar. at
Didsbury in 1643.

Thomas Mosley,
Lord Mayor of
York 1637.

Rowland, = Jane, dau. of Charles
Sheriff of Rickard of Heck Esq.
York 1702.

Issue.

<p>1 Anne, dau. of Hum. = Rowland Mosley = Anne, dau. of Francis purey, Houghton of of Hough End; Sutton Esq. and sister Manchester; Gent.; Sheriff of Lancas- and colheir of Richard bur. at Didsbury shire 1616; bur. at Sutton of Sutton co. May 27, 1613. Didsbury March 11, 1616-17. </p>	<p>2 Anthony Mosley; mar. sister of Sir William Hewett Knt. </p>	<p>3 Francis Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury March 26, 1562; bur. there July 26, 1610. Nicholas Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury Oct. 19, 1566. Alexander Mosley, bapt. at Didsbury Jan. 26, 1567. </p>
<p>Margaret, = William Whitmore John Mosley, dau. and of Appley, co. Sa- bur. Feb. 8, heress, 10p, Esq. 1593-94. bur. at Didsbury May 21, 1607. </p>	<p>Sir Edward Mosley Bart. = Maria, dau. of Sir Gervase Cutler bapt. at Didsbury Sept. Knt. of Stainborough Hall, co. 1616; created a Baronet 20 York; marriage license dat. Nov. July, 1640; Sheriff of the 6, 1636; mar. at Choriton Chapel county of Stafford 1642; Nov. 15, 1636; died in the same bur. at Didsbury Dec. 4, year as her husband. 1657. </p>	<p>Anne, liv. 1656; died un- married. </p>
<p>Sir Edward Mosley Bart. = Katharine, dau. of William Lord died Oct. 14, and bur. at Grey of Wark. Married 2ndly, Didsbury Oct. 21, 1665, s.p. Charles, son and heir of Dudley Lord North; 3rdly, Colonel Rus- sell. </p>	<p>Anne, bapt. at Didsbury March 14, 1616-17, and bur. there May 16, 1659. </p>	<p>Mary. = Joseph Maynard of Ealing, co. Middle- sex Esq. </p>



Mosley of Hulme.

Edward Mosley = Margaret, dau. of
of Hough End; Alexander Elcock
died 1571. of Stockport Gent.

Sir Nicholas Mosley
Knt.

Anthony Mosley, third son, = Alice, dau. of Richard = John Cudworth of Wer-
of Ancoats, which estate he Webster of Manchester; neth; mar. at Coll. Ch.
acquired by purchase from bur. at Coll. Ch. March May 3, 1613.
Sir John Byron Knt.; will 13, 1640-1.
dat. Nov. 14, 1606; died March
25; bur. at Coll. Ch. March
27, 1607, et. 70.

<p>Nicholas, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Jan. 17, 1584-5, and bur. there Feb. 8, 1585-6. Nicholas, bapt. Aug. 7, 1588, and bur. Jan. 11, 1588-9. Anthony, bapt. Aug. 15, 1591, and bur. Aug. 26, 1598. Margaret, bapt. July 31, and bur. Sept. 10, 1594.</p>	<p>2 Francis of Manchester, clothier; bapt. Jan. 23, 1585-6; afterwards of Collyhurst; bur. at Coll. Ch. Oct. 14, 1602. Coll. Ch. = 47. (Brass in coll. Ch. Manchester.)</p>	<p>Oswald Mosley = Anne, dau. of Ancoats; bapt. at Coll. Ch. April 26, 1583; bur. there Nov. 11, 1630, et. 47. (Brass in coll. Ch. Manchester.)</p>	<p>Walter Nugent = Ellen, = Henry Sewell of Manchester; bapt. of Tetlow; mar. at Coll. Ch. July 9, mar. lic. dat. Nov. 13, 1606; Dec. 1615 and bur. there March 10, 1613- 14.</p>	<p>Rowland Mosley, = Jane, dau. bapt. May 22, 1603; lived in the Milne- gate, Manchester. Anthony Brown of Marsh, co. Derby, Gent.</p>
<p>3 Edward, bapt. July 18, 1596; mar. and had 2 daughters, who died young. He died 1617. 4 Richard, of Manchester, clothier; bapt. Aug. 10, 1597; will dat. Feb. 3, 1627-8; bur. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 7, 1627-8, un- married.</p>	<p>Alice, bapt. Jan. 1, 1592-3; = John Cud- mar. lic. dat. Sept. 4, worth of 1611. Werueth Gent. Anne, liv. Feb. 3, 1627-8, unmarried. Elizabeth, bapt. July 30, 1595; bur. Dec. 8, 1602.</p>	<p>Alice, bapt. Jan. 1, 1592-3; = John Cud- mar. lic. dat. Sept. 4, worth of 1611. Werueth Gent. Anne, liv. Feb. 3, 1627-8, unmarried. Elizabeth, bapt. July 30, 1595; bur. Dec. 8, 1602.</p>	<p>Alice, bapt. Jan. 1, 1592-3; = John Cud- mar. lic. dat. Sept. 4, worth of 1611. Werueth Gent. Anne, liv. Feb. 3, 1627-8, unmarried. Elizabeth, bapt. July 30, 1595; bur. Dec. 8, 1602.</p>	<p>Alice, bapt. Jan. 1, 1592-3; = John Cud- mar. lic. dat. Sept. 4, worth of 1611. Werueth Gent. Anne, liv. Feb. 3, 1627-8, unmarried. Elizabeth, bapt. July 30, 1595; bur. Dec. 8, 1602.</p>

<p>Nicholas Mosley—Jane, dan. of Ancoats; bapt. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 26, 1661, and bur. there Oct. 28, 1672. Ancestor of Sir Oswald Mosley Bart. now living in 1896.</p>	<p>Sir Edward—Jane Meriel, dan. of Rich- of Hulme; and bapt. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 6, 1618; bur. at Didsbury 31 July, 1695.</p>	<p>3 Oswald Mosley, bapt. Aug. 23, 1625; mar. (1) Anne, dan. of William Lever of Kersall Gent. and had 2 daughters; and (2) Elizabeth, dan. of John Lightbourne Esq., whose issue died young. He ob. 1653, with male issue. 4 Samuel, bapt. May 11, 1628. Settled in Ire- land, where he mar- ried. Died in 1673 without issue.</p>	<p>5 Francis Mosley, = Katharine, bapt. Sept. 26, 1630; Follow of the Coll. Ch. and Rector of Wilmslow. He died 1699. Esq.; died 1702.</p>	<p>Anne, bapt. Jan. 31, 1698-9; mar. (1) Ro- bert Booth of Sal- ford Esq.; and (2) Rev. Thomas Case. Margaret, bapt. Nov. 5, 1616; mar. Rev. John Angier of Denton. Mary, bapt. Dec. 26, 1620; mar. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 18, 1647-8. George Crowther of London.</p>
<p>Anne, dan. and heiress—Sir John Bland Bart. of bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 28, 1664; died July 26, and bur. Aug. 3, 1734, 1685; bur. at Didsbury at Didsbury.</p>	<p>Nicholas Mosley, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 18, 1666; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 8, 1688.</p>	<p>Oswald, } unmarried. Edward, } Rowland, }</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, = Jane, dan. of Rector of Rol- of Kidal, co. York, Esq. A numerous issue.</p>	<p>Anne, wife of Richard Whitworth of Adbas- ton, co. Stafford, Esq. Katharine, wife of John Hooper of Mauches- ter, merchant. Elizabeth, unmarried.</p>
<p>Francis Mosley, = Jane, dan. of Rector of Rol- of Kidal, co. York, Esq. A numerous issue.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Coll. Ch. Aug. 18, 1666; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 8, 1688.</p>	<p>Edward Mosley, bur. at Didsbury April 10, 1677.</p>	<p>Francis Mosley, bapt. at Hulme Sept. 8; bur. at Didsbury Sept. 10, 1677.</p>	<p>Anne, bapt. Jan. 31, 1698-9; mar. (1) Ro- bert Booth of Sal- ford Esq.; and (2) Rev. Thomas Case. Margaret, bapt. Nov. 5, 1616; mar. Rev. John Angier of Denton. Mary, bapt. Dec. 26, 1620; mar. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 18, 1647-8. George Crowther of London.</p>

TOWNSHIP OF BURNAGE.

This small township lies five miles south-south-east from Manchester, and includes the hamlets of Green End and Lady Barn, the former probably deriving its name from its verdure as contrasted with the surrounding neighbourhood, and the latter of uncertain derivation, said to take its name from the erection of a barn or grange by Lady Anne Bland, but in reality so designated as early as 1638, in which year John and Thomas Shalcross of Ladie Barn pledge themselves to the payment of £2 3s. due to the minister of Didsbury, and even earlier, in the will of Sir Nicholas Mosley dated 1612.

Burnage is bounded on the north by Withington, Rusholme and Levenshulme; on the south by Didsbury and Heaton Norris; on the east by Heaton Norris; and on the west by Withington. Its area, according to Rickman's computation in the Census Returns of 1831, is 610 acres; according to the Tithe Commissioners in their return of 1851, 658 acres; the Ordnance Survey makes it 666a. Or. 29p.; and Messrs. Johnson 677 acres. Its name is anciently written Brownegge, Brownage, Browledge, Bromwich and Bromage,—and its etymology is a disputable point; *Bran*, *braun*, *brun*, *bourne* signifying a rivulet or stream, and also a boundary or limit:—*Brin*, *brind*, *brand*, *bur*, *burn* from *brennen* (German) or *Bernan* (Saxon) signifies also to burn,—hence the word *brand*, a piece of burning wood. The latter syllable in the word signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a brink, margin or extremity.

In the extent or survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322), it is stated that “in Brownegge there are 356 acres of pasture in common for the tenants of Heton [Norris] and Withington; nevertheless the lord may appropriate to himself 136 acres of pasture there, worth thirty-four shillings, at three pence per acre, besides a sufficiency of pasture for those commons which

John de Biron, John de Langford and John de Langton have cultivated and enclosed." This acreage, Lancashire measure as no doubt it was, would include nearly the whole township, for the Ordnance Survey reduced from statute to Lancashire measure, gives but a total area of 411 acres for Burnage. There was a dole-field in the township, called Barcicroft or Bassy-croft, that is, the rushy enclosure about thirty Lancashire acres in extent; it was known by that name as early as the year 1590. By a deed amongst the Trafford evidences, undated, but executed in the reign of Edward III., John De la Warre lord of Manchester and Joane his wife convey to Thomas son of Henry de Trafford one hundred acres of moor and pasture land in Heaton and Withington,—to wit that half of the tract called Brownege lying nearest to Heaton, the which half remained to the said John and Joane after a certain partition of the whole tract made between them and Richard de Longeford, — To have and to hold the same on payment of seventy shillings per annum. And if it should happen that the aforesaid Thomas die without heirs male then with remainder to Nicholas son of the said Thomas, and to his brothers Edward and Thomas in succession, with further remainder to the said John De la Warre and Joane his wife and their heirs. The deed further states that the said hundred acres of moor and pasture, together with twenty acres of other land, were conveyed to the aforesaid Thomas in exchange for thirty acres of pasture in Barton near Flixton; and then proceeds at greater length to describe the land in terms not now intelligible, two or three words being undecipherable in the original deed of conveyance.¹

¹ Hoc script' testatur indentat' q^d d'nus Joh'nes la Warr d'n's Mamcestr' & d'na Johanna uxor ejus dederunt &c. Thome filio Henrici de Trafford quinquies viginti acras more & pastur' cū p'tin. in Heton et Wythington seil. illam medietatem placee vocate Brownege jacent' p'prius Heton et que medietas remansit eisdem Joh'i & Joh'ne post quā^m partitionem integre placee p'diet' inter ipsos et Dom. Richm. de Langeford f'etam. Hēnd. & Tenend. &c. redd. ann. sexaginta et decem solid. Et si contingat q^d p'deus Thom. obierit sine hered. masc. corpore, tunc reman. Nich'o filio ejusdem Thome; et si contingat &c. reman. Edwardo f'ri p'det. Nich.; et si contingat &c. reman. Thome f'ri p'det. Edwardi; rem. dom. Joh'ni et Johān et heredibz ipsius.

The earliest Population Returns for Burnage are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits 54 houses tenanted by 55 families or 297 individuals. Of these one hundred and twenty-six were under the age of 15; forty-three above 50; thirteen above 60; thirteen above 70; and one exceeding 80 years. In 1801 the township contained 78 houses and 383 inhabitants. In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 454. In 1821 to 513; houses 93; families 98, of whom 31 were employed in agriculture, 63 in manufactures, and 40 otherwise. In 1831 there were 5 houses uninhabited and 91 occupied by 101 families, of whom 39 were engaged in agriculture, 55 in trade and 7 otherwise; total population 507, showing a decrease during the past ten years. In 1841 there were 4 empty houses and 100 occupied by a population of 489, the numbers again exhibiting a further decrease. In 1851 there were 3 empty houses and 104 occupied; total population 563.

In 1655, 27 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, including Francis Mosley, Thomas Fletcher, Widow Birch, &c. In 1854 the number of ratepayers in the township was 115, and the total amount of rate collected £162 19s. 11d. The gross annual value of property rated for the relief of the poor was, in the latter year, £3,553 3s. 9d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land-tax, was £80 15s. 5d.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £1,752; in 1829, £1,971; in 1841, £2,413; and in 1853, £2,984.

Burnage is in the polling district of Manchester, and in 1854 contained 17 county voters. There was in the township in 1854 no church, chapel, railway, canal, colliery, mill or other manufac-

Et sciant q^d p'dei quinquies viginti acras more et pastur' & viginti acras dimittunt p'deo Thome in allocac'em et ad balentiā triginti aer' pastur' in Barton juxta flinton quas idem Dom. Johēs et Johanna ei . . . debuit et quas idem Thomas . . . v'sus Thomā filiū Ade de Hulme p' quādam assisam none disseisme. In ejus &c. sigilla p'deor' d'ni Joh's et Johan. uxoris sue quam sigilla p'deor' Thome, Nich'i, Edward' & Thome huic indentur' alternat' apposunt hiis testibz [no names appear.] — *Trafford Evidences, Lancashire MSS.* vol. xxv. p. 88.

tory; neither was there any public-house. The number of beer-houses in the township was three. In 1844 the lands of the township were in the hands of twenty-nine owners, of whom the following were the chief:—

	A.	R.	P.
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.....	333	2	28
John Bibby Esq.	54	0	17
John Wood Esq.	52	0	28
Edmund Wright Esq.....	47	1	0
William Caistor Esq.	45	0	26
Lea Birch Esq.....	24	0	16
Thomas Brown Cave Esq.	19	2	0

Assuming the area of the township to be 635 acres, the lands were thus divided:—Arable land, 200 acres; meadow and pasture land, 420 acres; roads 15 acres.

For the reason already assigned—its all but total inculture in early times—Burnage possesses few features of antiquarian interest, and little to call for remark. It never appears to have been the place of residence of any family of note. In its ecclesiastical relations it was tributary to the mother church of Manchester to the extent of the payment of tithes, though its more immediate dependence was upon Didsbury chapel, towards the repairs of which it was called upon to contribute as exigency required. In 1658 thirty-four land-owners within the township paid chapel-rate to Didsbury, amongst whom were Mr. Thomas Birch of Birch, William Birch of the Lumm, and Robert Didsbury. In 1701 the tithes of Withington and Burnage (there is no separate return) were leased by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester to Mr. W. Birch for the sum of £32 per annum. In 1848 the amount paid to the Dean and Chapter in lieu of tithes for Burnage alone was £72 10s.

This relationship of Burnage to Didsbury as one of the four townships originally included within the chapelry limits, was never called in question until the year 1814, when the Churchwardens of the chapelry, Messrs. Robert Fielden and Thomas Hudson, were involved in an expensive and tedious law-suit, extending over five years, in order to establish the connexion hitherto undisputed. In

that year, at the Easter vestry, Mr. Thomas Mottram of Burnage was elected a sidesman for the chapelry. At the same meeting the Churchwardens were requested to take such legal steps as they might judge expedient and be advised in order to collect leys and maintain the rights of the church. To effect this the wardens instituted a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court against Mottram for refusing to serve the office of sidesman. The defendant procured a prohibition from the Court of Queen's Bench to stay the suit in the Ecclesiastical Court. By this change of venue Mottram became plaintiff and the Churchwardens the defendants. The cause was tried at the Lancaster assizes in August 1817. The issues tried were two, — firstly, the claim of Didsbury to chapelry rights, viz., wardens, sidesmen, church-rates, &c., — and secondly, whether the township of Burnage were in the said chapelry. A mass of evidence was produced, and the verdict on both issues given in favour of the defendants, thus asserting the rights of the chapelry, and devolving the costs of the suit upon the plaintiff. Mottram, to evade the payment of costs, suffered imprisonment. The Churchwardens therefore came upon the chapelry in vestry for reimbursement of the defendants' (i.e. their own) costs, amounting to £1,464 9s. 2d., and Mr. Robert Fielden threatened to file (and afterwards did file) a bill in chancery for the recovery of the same. Towards liquidating the claim a vestry meeting was convened, F. Philips Esq. of Bank Hall, Heaton Norris, in the chair, when a church-rate of one shilling and threepence in the pound was assessed throughout the chapelry, — ninepence to be paid by the landlords and sixpence by the tenants. How far this reimbursed Mr. Fielden is not known, but up to his death he asserted that he had a large unliquidated claim against the chapelry.

A schoolroom, the nucleus of a future church, is about to be erected in Burnage; meanwhile a room has been lent for school purposes, which has also been licensed for Divine service. Burnage has no charity exclusively its own, but shares in the several charities which extend their operations over the entire chapelry, — Mosley, Chorlton, Boardman, Bland and Linney. — See under Didsbury, pp. 100–106.

TOWNSHIP OF HEATON NORRIS.

The township of Heaton Norris lies six miles south-south-east of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Levenshulme and Reddish, the stream called the Black-brook separating it from those townships; on the south by the river Mersey, which there forms the division between the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Reddish and Stockport, the river Mersey flowing between it and the latter town; and on the west by Burnage and Didsbury. Heaton Norris bears the same relation to Stockport in geographical position that Salford bears to Manchester.

The name *Heaton* is descriptive of one of the distinguishing peculiarities of its situation; *Hay*, *Hey* or *Hea* implying in the Anglo-Saxon a separate enclosure within a forest or park fenced with a rail or hedge; and thus the whole word indicates a town or hamlet fenced in from the surrounding forest. It takes the adjunct of *Norris* from its association with the family of that name who were its early proprietors, and for the sake of distinction from other places possessing the like features and known by the same name, as Heaton in Prestwich parish, &c.

Albert Grelle (the younger), second Baron of Manchester, who died some time before the 28 Henry II. (1181), gave to William Norreys or Norris two carucates of land in Heaton, subject to a rent of ten shillings,¹ and from him doubtless the township received its name. This grantee was a member of the ancient family of Norreys seated at Blackrod and Speke, whose progenitor is supposed by Dr. Ormerod to have been a Norwegian, and to have settled in this country, commemorating his descent in the name he adopted, "le Norreys."² William Norreis who by deed

¹ Abb'tus Gredde juvenis dedit Will'o Noreus ij caruc' terre in Heton, p' x sol'; heredes ejus tenēt illā t'ram. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Proceedings of the Lancashire and Cheshire Historic Society, vol. ii. p. 138.

dated 34 Edward I. (1305) conveys to his brother Alexander certain lands in Denton, is described in the deed as "de Heaton."

From the inquisition p.m. of Robert Greslet in 1282 it appears that the manor of Heaton Norrys, a member of Manchester, yielded an annual rent of £4 6s. 4½d., and was held of Edmund Earl of Lancaster by service of doing suit to the Earl of Lancaster.

Heaton Norris, though itself claiming the style, title and dignity of a separate manor, was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester; and its inhabitants were required to contribute towards the support of the lord's bailiff and his four under-bailiffs.

From a survey of the manor of Manchester, taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322), it appears that in Heaton Norris there are 225 acres of arable land, or six bovates and a half, worth £9 3s. 10¼d.; there are, moreover, 135 acres of heath-land, worth £7 11s. 3¼d, at different sums per acre, and six bovates and a half of land worth 32s. 7d., at different amounts per bovat. There are also in Heaton twenty-three messuages on lands built upon for divers terms. The pasture lands are estimated at 136 acres, and are said to be worth 34s., but, it is added, there are in the lord's wood 70 acres pasture in common for the tenants of Heaton and Withington with their members, with six weeks' time of pannage which cannot be reckoned at a value beyond the sufficiency for the commoners. Heaton Norris, it is declared, has a wood called Heton Wood, which has oaks and hayes [fenced enclosures], in which the tenants of Heton who hold in fee by charter have housebote [leave to take timber out of the lord's wood to repair a tenant's house] and haybote [leave to take thorns to repair fences] out of the lord's liberties, by which means many things are totally destroyed and not renewed, wherefore the yearly value in wood, pannage or other issues of the wood is not computed, if it were it might in a short time fail. There is a moor called Heton Moss, which contains 70 acres of turbary, and in which the freeholders of Heton have housebote whilst it affords enough; besides which the lord may sell turbary, as he does at present, to the amount of 6s. 8d. yearly;

but this cannot be enumerated amongst the yearly profits because it will soon cease to be. At Heton is a mill turned by the Horemillsiech, worth yearly 16s. 8d. And there is a certain Fishery in the Merse, to the middle of the river, from Grimesbotham as far as Ditesbery Moor, worth 6d. And this mill, before the time of the Lady of Heton, was wont to be turned by the Merse, and was then worth 4s. yearly; but now it is not worth so much from want of water, and yet at it ought all the tenants of Heton to grind. In this survey "The Turf-pitts between Heton Norres and Reddish" are named as a part of the boundary-line enclosing the manor, but the situation indicated is now unknown.

A passing allusion has been made to the interest of the Norris family in Heaton, commencing as early as the reign of Henry II. It continued uninterrupted until the reign of Edward I., beyond which time nothing is known of their further association with the township.

In the 1 Henry V. (1413), as appears from the Inquisition p. m., Arthur Workesley or Worsley died seised of lands in Workesley Vill &c., and also in Heton Norres. The same estates were still in the family in the reign of Henry VIII. In the 27 Henry VIII. (1535) Robert Worsley Esq., the immediate ancestor of the Worsleys of Booths, and great-grandson of the above-mentioned Arthur, died in possession of the said lands, and four years after his death they became the subject of litigation at Lancaster,—Adam Worsley being plaintiff in the suit, and Robert Worsley defending himself against a charge of forcible entry and tortious possession of lands and messuages in Heytone Norreys.

In this reign the family of Reddish also held estates in the township. From the Inquisition p. m. of Otho or Otes Reddish in the 14 Henry VIII. (1522) we learn that he was seised at his death of Reddish manor and also of lands in Heton Norres. He was the eldest son and heir of John Reddish and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq. The descent of this estate is shown by the several Inquisitions of John Reddish, his son, in the 1 Elizabeth (1558); his great-grandson John

Reddish in the 11 Elizabeth (1569); and Alexander Reddish, his great-great-grandson in the 11 James I. (1613), at whose death the estates were conveyed by his daughters and coheireses into the families of Coke and D'Arey.

In Queen Mary's reign a disputed right of road from the capital messuage of Portwood to Stockport Church was tried in the Duchy Court; certain lands in Heaton Norris were included in the inquiry, and the action lay between William Duekenfield Esq., who is described as a tenant of Brynington, the plaintiff, and Ralph and Katharine Nyeholsone the defendants. Another action, probably arising out of this, was tried in the same court in the 3 Edward VI. (1549), Richard Nicholson prosecuting Oliver Hidson and others in respect of interruption to a right of way to a messuage, lands and tenements in Heyton Norres.

In the 8 Elizabeth (1565) Robert Holme (Hulme) of Hulme Hall in the adjoining township of Reddish, sued Thomas Holme at Lancaster for detention of title-deeds of messuages and lands pledged for security of money lent, the estates under litigation being situated in Reddish, Heton Norres, and Denton. Five years later, Robert Holme is himself defendant in an action brought against him by Thomas Nicholson, the lessee of Robert Chatterton, in relation to property in Heton Norres township. Inquisitions p. m. of William Holme, dated 14 Charles I. (1638), and of William Holme, dated 17 Charles I. (1641), show the family to have been landed proprietors in the township at a later period. In the 10 Elizabeth (1567) Robert Roos, otherwise Rosse, claiming as heir to Sir James Strangewishe Knight, seised in fee, contests with Lord Dacre and John Elcock, claimants by conveyance from Sir James Strangewishe Knight, divers lands, tenements and hereditaments in Heyton Norres manor, Heyton Strangewishe and Heyton.

Amongst other land-owners in the township in the reign of Elizabeth was Sir Gilbert Gerard Knight, of Wymerleigh in the county of Lancaster, Master of the Rolls, who died in the 35 Elizabeth (1592) seised of lands in Heaton Norris. The year pre-

ceding his death he was plaintiff at Lancaster in a suit with Nicholas Langford and others touching his right to certain waste ground called Heaton Woods, and fishing in the ponds of the waste and the woods under Heaton. Sir Gilbert represented a branch of the Gerards of Brin in the same county, and was appointed in the first year of Queen Mary's reign Reader at Gray's Inn, of which society he shortly afterwards became treasurer, being associated in that office with Nicholas Bacon, subsequently Lord Keeper of the Great Seal. In the 1 Elizabeth (1558) he became Attorney-General, and in this office he remained until the 23rd year of her reign, when he was made Master of the Rolls. His principal seat was Gerard's Bromley in the county of Stafford, which Sir Gilbert built. He died, as already stated, in 1592, leaving issue by Ann his wife, daughter and heiress of William Radcliffe of Wimersley in the county of Lancaster Esq., two sons, Thomas and Radcliffe, and four daughters. His son Thomas, in the 39 Elizabeth (1596), being then a Knight, was constituted Knight-Marshal of the King's Household for life. In the 1 James I. (1603) he was advanced to the dignity of a Baron of the realm by the title of Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley; he died in 1618.¹ The Gerards were lords of the manor of Heaton Norris in the reign of Elizabeth. Towards the close of that reign the manor was conveyed by purchase to Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who in his will devised it to his eldest son Rowland. From the Mosleys it passed by inheritance to the Blands, who about the middle of the last century disposed of it by sale to the Egertons of Tatton in the county of Chester. William Tatton Egerton of Tatton Esq. M.P. is the present lord of the manor.

The name also of Gregory Lovell Esq. occurs about this time in the annals of the township as a landed proprietor. He is described as Cofferer to the Queen's Household, and was in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) plaintiff at Lancaster in a suit relating to certain lands in Heaton Norris which he claimed by conveyance from Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. He was of Merton in the county of Surrey, the

¹ Dugdale's Baronage, p. 417.

second son of Sir Francis Lovell and grandson of Sir Gregory Lovell of Barton Bendish in the county of Norfolk. Sir Robert Lovell, his eldest son by a second marriage with Dorothy daughter of Nicholas Green, whose Inquisition p. m. is dated the 44 Elizabeth (1601) was his successor in the Heaton Norris estate. His widow Dame Jane Lovell afterwards appears as prosecutrix in the Duchy Court against one Roger Duddell and Alice his wife in respect of a disputed messuage in Heaton Norres.

In the 20 Elizabeth (1577) Sir William West Knt. Lord De la Warre, and Sir Edmund Trafford Knt. lords of the manor of Manchester, assert their claim against Sir John Ratcliffe, Deputy-Steward of the Hundred and Manor of Salford, to hold courts-leet and exercise other manorial privileges in Heton Norres and other places within Manchester town and manor. In the same reign Sir Edmund Trafford was a suitor in the Duchy Court with reference to lands, tithes &c. in Trafford, Stretford and Heaton Norris, the defendants in the action being Thomas Goodere and Katharine his wife in right of the said Katharine, who is executrix of Ralph Sorocold. The defendants in this suit were land-owners in Didsbury, where they probably resided. Of the families already enumerated not one appears to have resided in the township; nor was it at any time, as far as can now be gathered, the abode of any family possessing claim to distinction. In 1844 the lands of Heaton Norris were in the possession of fifty-three proprietors, of whom the principal were:—

	A.	R.	P.
Wilbraham Egerton Esq.....	1035	0	0
Francis Philips Esq.	197	2	37
Mr. John Goulden	78	1	15
Mr. Edmund Wright	65	2	22
Estate devised by the late William Hulme Esq... ..	62	1	36
Mr. John Thorniley	41	0	1
Mr. Cephas Howard	39	3	24
London and North-Western Railway	38	2	20
Mr. John Graves	29	0	6
Mr. Dakin	28	3	18

Assuming the total area to be 1,840 acres, the lands were thus divided : — Meadow and pasture land, 980 acres ; arable land, 670 acres ; site of buildings, 100 acres ; roads, 50 acres ; railway, 40 acres.

Traces of an ancient British encampment still exist in the township, towards the north. It is surrounded by a moat, and retains in part its early name, the “Peel” or the “Peel moat,” from the Celtic *Pill*, a small fortress or stronghold.

Heaton Norris includes the several hamlets of Heaton Mersey, Norris Hill, Bank, Blackbrook, Bower-house, Folds, Top-o’th-Bank and Underbank. Of these the most important is Heaton Mersey, situated in the south division of the township on the banks of the Mersey, from which it receives its name. Here is situated Mauldeth Hall, the residence of the Bishop of Manchester, and formerly the seat of Mr. Edmund Wright, from whose



executors it was purchased by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1854. It is a modern mansion of stone, and is conjectured to have taken its name from an earlier designation of the site on which it

is erected—the Marled Earth—corrupted into Mauldeth. It was built by Mr. J. C. Dyer, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Wright the late owner. The grounds are of some extent, measuring upwards of a quarter of a mile from north to south, and nearly a quarter of a mile from east to west, and embracing an area of 39a. 2r. 9p. The estate is on the borders of the townships of Burnage and Heaton Norris, but in the latter township, and on the confines of the two dioceses of Manchester and Chester. It was conveyed by the representatives of the late Mr. Edmund Wright to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by deed, dated February 7, 1854.

The earliest Population Returns for Heaton Norris are in the year 1774, at which time the township included within its limits 134 houses, four of which were untenanted; the number of families 141; individuals 769. Of these, two hundred and sixty-seven were under the age of 15; one hundred and thirteen above 50; fourteen above 60; twenty-one above 70; and seven above 80.

In 1801 the township contained 422 houses, and 3,768 inhabitants.

In 1811 the inhabitants had increased to 5,232.

In 1821 there were 1,050 inhabited houses, 11 empty, and 12 in course of erection; families 1,429, whereof 72 were employed in agriculture, 1,353 in trade and manufactures, and 4 otherwise; total population 6,958.

In 1831, houses occupied 2,127, 11 building, and 59 empty; families 2,220, of whom 141 were chiefly engaged in agriculture, 1,713 in trade, and 366 otherwise employed; total population 11,238.

In 1841, houses occupied 2,772, ditto untenanted 587, ditto in the course of erection 11; total population 14,629.

In 1851, houses occupied 3,135, ditto untenanted 190, ditto in course of erection 14; total population 15,697.

In 1655 sixty persons in the township were rated to the relief of the poor; amongst whom were Anthony Ellcock, clerk, 18s. 6d., Edward Hulme and Thomas Williamson for Shaw House. The

total rate collected for the half-year ending November 25 was £22 10s. 8½d. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £1,906 15s. 7d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township, as assessed to the land-tax, was £281 15s.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £12,006; in 1829, £33,584; in 1841, £45,175; and in 1853, £47,202.

There were in the township in 1834, 23 public-houses.

The area of Heaton Norris, according to the computation of Rickman in the Census Returns of 1831, is 2,180 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 2,126 acres; the Tithe Commissioners, as adopted in the Census Returns of 1851, 2,108 acres; and the Ordnance Survey 2,115a. 1r. 20p.

The township is intersected by the London and North-Western Railway, which crosses the Mersey by a stupendous viaduct.

In 1826 a new turnpike road, called the Wellington Road, from Manchester to Buxton, was opened to the public; commencing at Heaton Chapel, it is carried on arches over the town of Stockport from north to south, and was constructed at an expense of £30,000. The old road, now disused, was formerly known as the High-street. Amongst the ratepayers in 1655 was John Holt of Streethouses, the name, doubtless, of some cottages built by the road side.

The Ashton, Manchester and Oldham Canal terminates at Lancashire Hill, a steep acclivity above the Mersey.

Heaton Norris has two charitable foundations exclusively its own; —

1. HOLLINGPRIEST'S CHARITY.

John Hollingpriest, by will bearing date August 5, 1785, gave to his executors the sum of £200 upon trust, to dispose of the same for the use and benefit of the charity school situate upon the turnpike road in Heaton Norris in such manner as to the said executors shall seem best.

Mr. John Lingard was the surviving executor, and upon his

death his representatives paid the sum of £200 to Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan, solicitors at Stockport, who lent the same on the 31st of May 1816, to John Holt at 5 per cent interest; and as a security for this money six houses in Dale-street Stockport were mortgaged to John Vaughan Esq. Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan have regularly accounted for the yearly sum of £10, though they have not received the interest from the mortgager since May 1820. The school to which the above-mentioned donation was made is situate near St. Thomas's Chapel, and appears to have been erected upon the waste by subscription about a century ago, and to have been repaired by the same means. The building consists of two stories, of which the lower is applied to the purposes of a school-room, the upper story being divided into apartments, and used as a residence for the schoolmaster. A small play-ground, containing about twenty perches, adjoins the school. The master of this school is appointed by the inhabitants of the township of Heaton Norris, and he receives £9 per annum from Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan in respect of Hollingpriest's legacy, £1 being retained by them for their trouble. The master has upon an average about ninety scholars, who are instructed upon his own terms in reading, writing and accounts; no children being taught gratuitously.¹

2. TITHE BARN CHARITY SCHOOL.

There are in the township of Heaton Norris certain premises adjoining an estate called the Tithe Barn House, which appear to have been appropriated for the support of a school. They consist of two cottages with gardens, and a small plot of ground in front, formerly used as a play ground for the scholars. These premises formerly constituted part of the waste of the manor belonging to Wilbraham Egerton Esq., and it is reputed that the cottages were built by a subscription upwards of sixty years ago, and that at the same time Richard Jepson, George Fletcher, John Chorlton and Edward Norris were nominated trustees for the school, for the support of which these premises were intended, but it does not

¹ Commissioners' Report of 1826, vol. xvi. p. 198.

appear that any deed was executed for conveying the legal estate to those persons. From this period up to the year 1818 it seems that there were always four persons who acted as trustees in letting the property or such part thereof as was not occupied by the master, and in ordering the necessary repairs and in receiving and paying the rents, for which purpose they met annually on Christmas day, and upon a vacancy appointed the schoolmaster; but since 1818 no meetings have been held. Thomas Jepson, the grandson of Richard Jepson above-mentioned, is now the only survivor of those who were acting as trustees in 1818, and the vacancies which have occurred since that time have not been filled up. In 1816 Thomas Higson was appointed schoolmaster, and one of the cottages was given up to him for his residence, but a certain rent was reserved; the other cottage was let. As long as the annual meetings were held, the amount of the clear rents, after deducting the expenses of repairs, was paid by the acting trustees to the schoolmaster for his stipend, and on this account he was required to teach a few children of the township or neighbourhood without any further charge. Since 1818 the schoolmaster has continued in the occupation of one of the cottages, with the garden thereto attached, without accounting for any rent, but for several years he has not had a single scholar. Applications have therefore been made to him by some of the principal inhabitants of the township to give up possession of the premises, but this, up to the time of our inquiry (February 1826) he had refused to do, upon the plea that he was willing to teach any children if they were sent to him. It appeared, however, to us that he was, from ill-health and indolent habits, totally unfit for the situation of schoolmaster; and we stated to him our opinion that he had no right to retain possession of these premises except upon the terms of keeping school, which he was incompetent to fulfil, and he engaged to give them up in the course of a month from that time. The cottage in the possession of Higson is in a fair state of repair, and is worth about £6 per annum. The other cottage is now in the possession of William Williamson as yearly tenant at a good rent of £5 5s.

per annum ; it has been lately put into a good state of repair by subscription. The rent of this cottage has lately been paid to Messrs. Lingard and Vaughan, in whose hands there was at the time of our inquiry a balance of £12 ls. 9d. due to the charity, arising from the amount of the rents received by them and the surplus of the subscription above-mentioned, after the payment of the expense of the repairs. It is intended out of this balance to defray the expenses of preparing the cottage in the possession of Higson for the reception of a new schoolmaster as soon as it is given up. It seems desirable that some steps should be taken for appointing new trustees for the management of this property ; and as the inhabitants are anxious that this should be done, and Wilbraham Egerton Esq. lord of the manor, has expressed his willingness to convey the school premises to gentlemen of the neighbourhood, as trustees for a school, we hope that the charity may soon be placed upon a better system.¹

For charities of Sir Edward Mosley Knt., Thomas Chorlton, Sergeant Boardman and Dame Ann Bland, in all of which the township participates, vide under Didsbury, pp. 100-106.

In its ecclesiastical relations, Heaton Norris, from the remotest times, was a part of the district appertaining to the parochial chapel of Didsbury ; and as associated with that township it was in a like degree tributary to the parent church of Manchester. In the 37 Henry VIII. (1545) Ralph Trafford and others were parties in an action against George Collier Warden of Manchester College, touching a disputed title to tithe-corn in Trafford, Hetton, Heyton &c. Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Trafford, whose name occurs in relation to the suit, was late wife of George Leigh, who farmed the tithe of Heaton. In 1701 the tithes of Heaton Norris were leased by the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church to Mr. H. Hulme for the sum of £50 per annum. In 1848 the rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same area, payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, was £286 10s.

As early as the year 1422 a grant of 11½ perches of land in

¹ Commissioners' Report of 1826, vol. xvi. pp. 198-199.

Heaton, "lying between lands in the tenure of William Hanson de Heton on the west, south and east, and the public road there on the north," had been made to the Warden of Manchester by Thomas, Lord De la Warre, intended as it might seem for ecclesiastical purposes. Dr. Hibbert Ware conjectured this and a similar plot in Gorton to be incidental to chapels in those townships, but it seems quite as probable that they were designed as sites for tithe-barns. That a tithe-barn once existed in the township is certain, for in 1607 one Ellen Smyth of Tythe-barn was buried at Didsbury, as appears from the chapel registers; and the obscure origin of certain premises now devoted to charitable uses in the immediate vicinity of the more modern Tithe-barn House seems to point to them as affording some clue to the purposes to which that gift has been applied. However this may be, there is no evidence of the existence of a chantry or chapel in the township at any former period.

In 1650 the Parliamentary Commission sitting at Manchester reported that "at Heaton Norres, having no parsonage or vicarage nor any spiritual benefice, and seven miles distant from the parish church, there should be a chapel; and Heaton Norres and Reddish joined together in one parish." This, however, was not done, and in 1658 twenty-two of the residents within the township were found contributing to a chapel-rate for the repairs of the parochial chapel of Didsbury. It was not until upwards of a century later that the suggestion of the Commission was carried into effect. In 1758 a site for a new church was offered by Mr. Thomas Collier of Heaton Norris, yeoman, in extent 1,712 square yards, being part of a close called the Yarn Croft. A church was erected thereon by voluntary subscription of several pious and well-disposed persons, which was consecrated July 29, 1765, by the name of St. Thomas's in Heaton Norris. It is a structure of no architectural pretensions, of brick, stuccoed to represent stone, and covered with substantial grey slates. Its original dimensions externally were, length 51 feet, breadth 39 feet, and it was calculated to contain 300 persons. In 1839 it was enlarged; by which means 334 addi-

tional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society, 250 of that number were declared to be free and unappropriated for ever. Galleries have also been erected in the transepts, whereby 160 sittings have been gained. As it now appears, the chapel consists of a nave comparatively spacious, with north and south transepts, and a chancel somewhat circumscribed. The west-end of the chapel is surmounted by an octagonal bell-turret. Before its enlargement access to the chapel was gained through a porch at the west end; there are now two entrances to the nave, and one to the gallery, the transept galleries being entered from within the chapel. The organ-loft is situated over the chancel, and is lighted by two small windows in the roof; it is entered from without. In March 1850, St. Thomas's Heaton Norris was returned as a district chapelry under the 59 George III. cap. 134; number of sittings 632, of which 382 were appropriated and the remainder free. It is now a separate rectory, under the provisions of the Manchester Rectory Division Act.

The first incumbent of St. Thomas's was the Rev. William Beresford, who was nominated to the chapel at its consecration in 1765. He was succeeded by the Rev. James Cooke, who officiated there in 1774, and later in 1786. The next incumbent in succession was the Rev. James Taylor, who died there in 1802. He was followed by the Rev. James Gatliff, who was nominated by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester October 18, 1802, being at the time stipendiary curate of Gorton chapel. In 1808, on the death of the Rev. John Darbey, Incumbent of Gorton, Mr. Gatliff was appointed to succeed him, his nomination bearing date October 29, 1808. In 1817 he edited Wogan's *Essay on the Proper Lessons of the Church of England*; in doing this he incurred a heavy pecuniary responsibility, from which he was unable to free himself, and was imprisoned at the suit of his publisher. During his incarceration a dispute arose between himself and the Bishop of Chester as to the sequestration of his living and the appointment of a curate in his absence, and on his liberation he published a statement of his case in a pamphlet wherein he very intemperately

assails his diocesan and also his brother the Rev. John Gatliff, Fellow of the Collegiate Church, for what he considered their unfeeling conduct towards him. In 1826 he returned to Gorton where he continued to reside until his death in 1831. He was interred within the chancel of Gorton chapel. On the resignation of St. Thomas's by Mr. Gatliff in 1808, the Rev. Charles Panton Middleton M.A. of Brazenose College Oxford, was nominated to the vacant chapel, which he held together with Hollinwood chapel in Prestwich parish, but afterwards resigned the latter. He was chaplain to the Earl of Tyrconnel, and received his education at the Manchester Grammar School. He died in 1844, and was succeeded by the Rev. Edward Dudley Jackson B.C.L., the present incumbent.

The endowment of the chapel consists of money contributed for that purpose, — £800 private benefactions, £400 from the governors of Queen Ann's Bounty, and £1,400 parliamentary grant; which several sums were expended in the purchase of three small farms, one in Cheshire and two in Yorkshire, producing in 1835 an annual income of £116. The farms have been recently sold, and the proceeds of the sale, amounting to £2,700, invested in the funds for the benefit of the living. A parsonage-house has also of late been erected in further augmentation of the endowment. It was built in 1847 on a plot of land purchased from Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton Park, at the nominal price of a farthing a yard. The cost of its erection was upwards of £1,200, which was defrayed by a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, aided by a donation of £200 from the present incumbent, and the contributions of the parishioners.

There is an old parochial day-school near the chapel, erected upwards of a hundred years ago by public subscription, to which reference has already been made under the head "Hollingpriest's Charity." A Sunday-school in connection with St. Thomas's is held in this room, but the building does not belong to the chapel. Nearly a century elapsed before any further effort was made to extend church accommodation in the township. Since the erection

of St. Thomas's the population of Heaton Norris had increased upwards of twenty fold, and the need of additional churches was felt to be urgent. On the 29th of July 1844, the foundation stone of a new structure, to be called Christ Church, was laid by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. of Tatton, lord of the manor of Heaton Norris, who gave the site and also a further donation of £1,000. The site selected is on the south-east side of the township near to the railway station. The chief contributors to the building-fund were the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society £2,000; the Diocesan Church Building Society £500; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £500; the Incorporated Society £400; and the rest by private subscription. The communion-plate was presented by Mrs. Egerton; the organ by Mr. John Marsland; the desk by Mr. R. C. Sharpe; and a further donation of £200 towards a spire was promised by Wilbraham Egerton Esq. The entire cost of its erection was £6,929, and the accommodation provided is 1,217 sittings, of which number 625 are free. It was consecrated October 21, 1846. It consists of a nave, chancel, side aisles and transepts, with a tower at the west end. Its proportions are as follows:—Nave 86 feet 10 inches in length, 22 feet 6 inches in breadth, and 44 feet 9 inches in height; chancel, 12 feet by 20 feet 6 inches; side aisles, 77 feet in length, 12 feet 8 inches in breadth, and 27 feet 3 in height; transepts, 14 feet 4 inches in length, 23 feet 7 inches in breadth, and 27 feet 3 inches in height; tower, 11 feet 4 inches square, and 79 feet 8 inches high. The clerestory rises 11 feet 6 inches from the roof of the aisles. The height of the church to the apex of the roof is 55 feet 9 inches. Christ Church was returned in 1846 as a district chapelry erected under the provisions of act 1 and 2 William IV. cap. 38; the annual endowment arising from money invested, exclusive of pews-rents, was £30. The first and present incumbent is the Rev. Charles Babington Jeaffreson M.A., late curate of Wilmslow.

The district assigned to the church is bounded on the north by the boundary of the borough of Manchester; on the south by the river Mersey (on the west of the Wellington Road), and a foot-

path running parallel with the church into the Manchester old road; on the east by the Manchester old road; and on the west by a portion of the boundary of the borough and the river Mersey. A site for schools (valued at £800) was also given by Mr. Egerton. The cost of their erection was about £900.

In the same year (1844) the erection of another church in the township, at Heaton Mersey, was decided on, and the foundation stone laid by Mr. John Marsland, but circumstances delayed the progress of the work, and it did not receive consecration until August 26, 1850. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The style of architecture adopted is the early English, and the cost of its erection was £4,252 4s. 7d., towards which the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society contributed £600; the Chester Diocesan Society £150; the Incorporated Society £200; the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £150; and the remainder by private subscription. It consists of a nave 67 feet by 43 feet 6 inches, and a chancel 22 feet by 18 feet 9 inches. The tower, which is at the west end, is in height 74 feet, and is surmounted by a spire 51 feet 6 inches high. There is a porch at the south entrance to the church 10 feet by 8 feet 10 inches. The height of the church from the floor to the apex of the roof is 52 feet 6 inches. The site, in extent 3,600 yards, was given by Mr. John Goulden. The church contains 536 sittings, of which 268 are free. The first and present incumbent is the Rev. William Munday Wilson. No schools in connection with the church have as yet been built. A site for a parsonage-house of equal extent with that of the church was also given by Mr. Goulden, and a parsonage-house has been erected thereon.

The Dissenters have five places of worship in the township.

Hanover chapel (Independent) was erected in 1821, and is a plain and substantial structure of brick, stuccoed, having a tower ornamented with four pinnacles. The site was purchased at a cost of £800, and the sum of £5,000 was expended on the chapel itself, of which amount £2,000 was contributed by a family named Howard. It contains 800 sittings appropriated, and 200 free

sittings for the poor. The east window is filled with stained glass, in which are representations of Faith, Hope and Charity. In 1855 schools were erected in connection with this chapel, and also a large lecture-room calculated to hold seven hundred people, at a cost of £2,000. An organ has been added during the present year, for which £500 has been paid.

Wycliffe chapel (Independent) is a neat Gothic structure of stone, erected in the year 1849-50. It will accommodate 530 adults and 200 children. The principal promoters of its erection were John Hampson Esq., who contributed £700; James Kershaw Esq. M.P. £450; Joseph Heaword Esq. £300; Sir Elkanah Armitage Knt. £50; James Carlton Esq. £50; and William Woodward Esq. £50. The site is held subject to the payment of an annual chief rent. Sunday and day schools are attached.

Tiviot Dale chapel (Wesleyan) was erected in 1824, at a cost of £14,000. It is of brick, fronted with white free-stone. The style of architecture is Grecian. It is approached by a lofty portico, supported by massive pillars of the Ionic order. It is of a size sufficient for the accommodation of 2,500 worshippers.

The two remaining chapels in the township are those of the Particular Baptists in Heaton Lane and of the Independents at Heaton Mersey.

Towards the close of the last century a school was founded at Heaton Mersey by Mr. Robert Parker, an extensive calico printer in the township. Primarily designed for the exclusive purposes of education, Mr. Parker afterwards desired that a license being obtained it should also serve as a church until a more suitable structure could be obtained; and for this purpose he applied to the Warden and Fellows of Manchester to procure from the bishop the necessary sanction; but this was refused, the bishop objecting to the celebration of Divine Service in any other than a consecrated building. Shortly afterwards a communication reached him from the Rev. John Wesley, requesting the use of the room for the ministrations of members of the Wesleyan body, to which he assented, in the belief that such ministrations could not but be

beneficial in the midst of a population for whom no adequate church accommodation had been provided. The school thus passed into the hands of dissenters, and has since ranked as one of the auxiliaries to the great school at Stockport.

Extract from the will of Robert Parker, late of Heaton Norris in the county of Lancaster, calico printer, deceased, bearing date July 17, 1815 :—

“I give and bequeath to the Manchester Infirmary and Lunatic Hospital the sum of £1,000, to be laid out in land for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the Manchester Lying-in Hospital the sum of £500, to be laid out in land or invested in the three per cent consols for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the Stockport Sunday-school situated in Duke-street the sum of £500, to be laid out in land or invested in the three per cent consols for the benefit of the same for ever. I give and bequeath to the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £500. I give and bequeath to the school at Stockport under the Established Church on Dr. Bell's plan the sum of £200. I give and bequeath to the Stockport Dispensary the sum of £200. I give and bequeath to the Free School at Hesketh in the county of Cumberland the sum of £100; the three last-mentioned sums for charitable purposes to be paid to the treasurers of the said several charities for the time being. I also give and bequeath the sum of £500, to be invested in the three per cent consols, the dividends and interest thereof to be paid to the Churchwardens of Didsbury, to be by them applied under the direction and with the assistance of the proprietors of the works at Heaton aforesaid to the support and repairs of the Sunday-school at Heaton, and towards the clothing of the children of the said school.”

The will was proved at Chester August 22, 1815, and the effects of the testator sworn under £175,000.

There is another branch of the Stockport school in this township situated at Lancashire Hill, at which latter place the New Connexion Wesleyans also have a Sunday school.

Reference has been made to the parent Sunday school at Stockport, which, from its magnitude, is worthy of a more special notice. It was founded in the year 1784 by a few religiously-active and benevolent men of different denominations, who lamented the prevalent ignorance of the town, and who overlooked the interest of party in the earnestness and comprehensiveness of their desire to promote the knowledge and happiness of their fellow-men. The schools were held at first in cottages, then an empty factory was taken, and step by step the cause advanced, until in 1805 the present structure of brick was erected. In 1850, 5,188 children were receiving education from upwards of 450 voluntary teachers. Of these 5,188 scholars, 3,868 were being taught at the Stockport school, 209 at Brinksway, 319 at Heaton Mersey, 491 at Lancashire Hill, and 301 in the Heaviley branch school, these latter schools being auxiliaries to the principal school at Stockport. The expenses of conducting these schools are defrayed by private subscription, and an annual collection, which on one occasion amounted to £500. Upwards of £20,000 has been spent in school buildings since the commencement. Its affairs are managed by trustees chosen from all religious denominations. There are in the Stockport school no fewer than eighty-three rooms, independent of the magnificent lecture-room which occupies the third story. It is furnished with a fine organ, the gift of Mr. Robert Parker in 1811.

TOWNSHIP OF REDDISH.

This township lies four miles and a half south-east from Manchester, and is situated on the confines of that extensive parish as also of the county itself, being separated from Cheshire by the river Tame shortly before its confluence with the Mersey. It is bounded on the north by Denton and Gorton; on the south and east by the river Tame, which there separates the counties of Chester and Lancaster; and on the west by Gorton, Levenshulme and Heaton Norris. There is a hamlet of that name in Lymm, eight miles and a half north-west from Nether Knutsford; a "Great Reddish Wood" near Bramhall in Cheshire; a township of "Redditch" on the borders of Warwickshire, and also a hamlet of "Reddich" in the parish of Tardebigg, Worcestershire. The orthography of the word has varied considerably at different periods; we find it written Radish, Radich, Redich, Rediche, Redych, Redwyche, Redish, Reddish, Reddishe, &c. The popular pronunciation is Redditch, and its name is said to have originated in an alleged discoloration of the waters of the Nicker Ditch, a local stream, from admixture with the blood of the Danes after an engagement with the Saxon inhabitants of Manchester about the year 869.¹

The township contains the three hamlets of Reddish Green, Sandfold and Whitehill. Reddish Green is about five miles south-east of Manchester. It consists of two "Greens," the smaller one lying nearer to the Stockport road is called emphatically Little Reddish Green, to distinguish it from the other, which was situated more in the heart of the township. Sandfold, so designated in 1679, is about four miles and a half south-east from Manchester. This small hamlet is popularly known as "th' soot-hole," into which it has been corrupted from Sandhole, — a pit or quarry whence sand has been obtained for many generations. The Sandfold farm in the middle of the seventeenth century was the

¹ *Foundations of Manchester*, vol. i. p. 11.

residence of a family named Oldham, well known in the local annals of dissent. It was here, at John Oldham's house, that a sermon was preached (a MS. copy of it is still preserved) by Mr. Robert Chadderton in 1681 from the text Romans viii. 9. Here, too, was born and died Thomas Oldham, one of the chief promoters of the erection of the Presbyterian Chapel at Gorton in 1705, and who contributed also to its endowment. He died in 1710, and was interred beneath an altar tomb within the cottage adjoining the chapel he had assisted to found.¹

Whitehill lies five miles and half south-east from Manchester, and about three quarters of a mile north of Stockport. It is so named from a house bearing this designation built upwards of thirty years ago by George Shawcross, a bleacher.

The Nicker Ditch, which flows between Reddish and Gorton, connects Reddish with the Saxon era. On the south side of the ditch, within the township, are several undulations known as the "Nicker Knolls." These have been supposed by all who accept the tradition of a Saxon and Danish conflict, to be ancient barrows or tombs, in which were deposited the bodies of the slain. A little south-south-west of these is a slightly elevated plot of land, in extent nearly a statute acre, and known as "Castle Meadow." It is nearly circular in form, level, and in point of elevation higher than the adjacent land. Tradition points to it as the site of a fortification, and its date is immediately referred to the occurrences just spoken of. Two of the fields adjoining the Nicker Ditch and appertaining to the Sandfold estate of the Oldhams, have been since the year 1745 designated "Blue Caps," in memory of the unwelcome intrusion when "all the blue bonnets came over the border."

At a very early period we find a record existing of a corn-mill in the township. By a deed undated but referable to the close of the thirteenth century, John de Hyde and Ellen his wife remise to Alexander, son of Robert de Hyde, all their right in the lands of Hethinglegh within the township of Brinnington, which lands had been given to them by Hamnet de Dokinfield, together with a

¹ Higson's *Gorton Historical Recorder*, p. 81.

third part of Reddish Mill.¹ This was doubtless a soke-mill erected by the lord for the use of his tenants, who, in recompense of the outlay, pledged themselves to grind their corn there. Its site is still pointed out. Amongst the tenants of the Earl of Lancaster in the 10 Edward II. (1316) mention is made "de firma ter Will fil Rogeri in Radish 6s." In the Extent and Survey of the manor of Manchester taken in the 15 Edward II. (1322) the line is described as "following the middle of the said river (Tame) between the county of Chester and Ashton as far as Moreclou at Redish; and so following Moreclou as far as Saltersgate; and from thence following the ditch of Redish as far as into Muchelditch; and following that as far as le Pegfenengate [or Peytonyngate]; and following that as far as le Turf-pitts between Heton Norres and Redish; and from thence following le Merebroke as far as the conjunction of the waters of Tam and Mersey," &c. Five centuries have done much to obliterate features at one time sufficiently distinct to serve as land-marks. Moor Clough, it has been conjectured, is what is now called Reddishwood, a little south of Reddish Hall, where there is a sort of ditch, part of the line of a rejected canal. Muchel or Muckle (that is "the great") Ditch is supposed on the same authority to be identical with the Black Brook, whilst Pegfenengate or Peytonyngate and the Turf Pits, two other points through which the boundary-line passes, are wholly untraced. These boundaries seem to exclude Reddish from the manor of Manchester, for otherwise it is probable that the course of the river would have been followed.

In the 15 Edward III. (1341) a tax was levied under the authority of the crown in every parish throughout the land towards defraying the expenses incurred by the king in the prosecution of his late wars with Scotland and France. In agricultural districts the tax was to consist of the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece, and

¹ Oibꝝ. &c. Joh'es de Hyda et Elena ux' ejus Salt'm &c. Nos remis &c. Alex' fil' D'ni Robti de Hyda tot' jus in t'ra Hethingleg in vil' de Brynintun q'm t'ram h'uimus ex dono Hamnet de Dokinfeld una cu' 3^{ia} p'te molend' de Redish, &c. Test. D'no Rob. de Stockp'te. Jo' de Byrun; Olivero de Langford; Henr' de Trafford Matheo de Birches, &c. — *Harl. MSS.* 2,112 fo. 117.

the ninth sheaf of corn, or their equivalent in money; in towns or boroughs a ninth part of the value of the goods and chattels of the inhabitants. It was assessed by a commission appointed for the purpose, who were empowered to take statements on oath. The name Redyche appears under the head of Manchester parish, and the payment decreed for that township was lijs. iiijd.¹

The superficial area of the township, as computed by Rickman in the Population Returns of 1831, was 1,460 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son's Survey estimates it at 1,573 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 1,541a. 2r. 1p.

The earliest Population Returns for Reddish are in the year 1774, at which period it contained but 54 houses, tenanted by 57 families, representing a population of 302 souls; of these 111 were under the age of fifteen, 51 above fifty, 10 above sixty, 5 above seventy, and 2 exceeding ninety. In 1801 the population numbered 456; in 1811, 532; in 1821, 574; in 1831, 860; in 1841, 1,188; in 1851, 1,218.

In 1655 there were 25 ratepayers in the township, two of whom paid three-sevenths of the entire rate, viz. Sir Edward Cooke [Coke] £5 15s. and Mr. Jo. Hulme £2 4s. The aggregate poor's rate collected in the six months ending November 25, 1655, was £18 15s. 6½d. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £266 6s.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in the township as assessed to the land tax was £343; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,555; in 1829, to the same, £5,650; in 1841, £6,503; and in 1853, £8,354.

Reddish has neither post-office, schoolmaster, lawyer, doctor, nor pawnshop.

The proprietors of the Manchester and Oldham Canal, by an act passed in 1793, obtained powers to form a length from their cut at Clayton demesne to Heaton Norris, a distance of about six miles. It is parallel with the high-way from Gorton toll-bar, and is on the level throughout; it was opened in 1797. The quantity of land required in Reddish was 13a. 3r. 24p. Powers were also obtained to form a branch to the Denton Collieries, a distance of about

¹ Nonarum Inquisitiones.

three miles. Bridges were built for the purpose, but the project was subsequently abandoned. The branch railway from Stockport to Guide Bridge passes through Reddish, appropriating 18a. 0r. 13p. of land, and extending rather more than a mile and three quarters. There is no station in the township.

The inhabitants are almost entirely occupied in agriculture; crofting, weaving (by hand-loom), and the manufacture of hats once slightly prevailed, but not to any extent, and consequently the population has always been small as compared with other townships. In 1851 it was only 1.116 person to the statute acre.

The total number of land-owners in Reddish in the year 1844 was 27, of whom the principal were:—

	A.	R.	P.
Robert Hyde Greg and John Greg Esqrs. (Reddish Hall, &c.)	535	3	18
Trustees of the late William Hulme Esq. (Hulme Hall, &c.).....	225	2	5
John Hyde Esq.....	210	0	33
The late Rev. William Fox's heirs (Wood Hall, &c.)	66	2	33
The Right Honourable the Earl of Wilton...	65	3	32
John Duncuft Esq.....	62	3	6
Michael Newton Esq.....	52	1	14
Ernest Hannibal Becker Esq.	41	0	14
Joseph Marsland Esq.	37	1	13
London and North Western Railway	18	0	13
Ashton Canal... ..	13	3	24

Assuming the area of the township to be 1,504 acres, it was thus divided:—Arable land, 90 acres; Meadow and Pasture, 1,320 acres; Wood and Water, 50 acres; Buildings and Streets, 44 acres.

In its ecclesiastical relations Reddish, as a part of the extensive parish of Manchester, was from the earliest times tributary to the mother church. In 1422, the Collegiate Church of Manchester was endowed with the tithe of corn growing and issuing out of (amongst other townships) Reddish; and in the Charters granted

to that Church by Mary, Elizabeth and Charles I., Reddish is included in an enumeration of the several townships over which the obligation to pay tithe to that church was made to extend. In 1701 the tithes of Reddish were farmed by Jo. Ardern for £18 per annum. In 1848 the annual rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same district, payable to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, was £134. Reddish still elects a sidesman to the Parish Church. It may be doubted whether this township was at any time included within the limits of the parochial chapelry of Didsbury; such seems scarcely probable. It is included here as united in after years with Heaton Norris, an off-shoot of Didsbury, and together with Levenshulme and Heaton Norris, constituted a separate ecclesiastical district. In 1650 the Parliamentary Commission sitting at Manchester under the authority of the Great Seal of England, reported that "Reddish hath no Church or Chapel, and the inhabitants resort to Stopforth, Denton and Gorton; it is fit to have a Church or Chapel erected betwixt it and Heaton Norres." And in another part of their report they recommend the union of the two townships of Heaton Norris and Reddish, so as to form a separate and distinct parish. This suggestion was not acted upon for upwards of a century, until in 1765, when St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris, was consecrated, a district was assigned to it which included Reddish. Reddish seems to have been overlooked in by-gone years by all religious denominations, being up to the present time destitute of church, chapel or school. Towards the close of the year 1855, the Rev. E. D. Jackson, Incumbent of the district, commenced a school at Lancashire Hill, situated locally in Heaton Norris township, but intended for the benefit of Reddish, and having obtained a license, Divine Service is celebrated there every Sunday evening.

Reddish has no charity exclusively its own, neither does it participate in any of the charities which extend their operations over other neighbouring townships.

Reddish township was the seat of a family bearing that name at a very early period, — a period too remote to be now determined,

owing to the absence of dates in the earlier deeds relating to their settlement there.

In an undated deed, we find Richard, son of Robert de Reddish, conveying to Jordan, his son, all that his share of Hydecroft [or Ryecroft]; and by a similar deed undated, Robert, son of Matthew de Reddish, conveys to Richard, his son, lands beginning "ad aquam de Thame," thence to Chiselbotham and the Alderndnus [? Aldwinshaw] described as "inter Reddish et Denton;" both which conveyances are conjectured to have been made not later than the middle of the thirteenth century.

In the 56 Henry III. (1272) Matthew de Reddish was declared to be seised of one-half of the manor of Reddish; in which same year he appears as plaintiff in an action against Robert de Reddish, the matter in dispute being the moiety of the said manor. Towards the close of the reign of Henry III., or the commencement of that of Edward I., Roger, son of William [de Reddish] is found possessed of one carucate of land in Reddish, which he held in thanage by the payment of six shillings. It is further declared that Matthew de Reddish holds that land from the said Roger by the same service.¹ The antiquity of the family may be inferred, and their long association with the township, from the nature of the tenure by which they held their lands, thanage being a tenure of Saxon origin. By deed dated 16 Richard II. (1392) Richard de Hide conveys to Richard de Reddish one parcel of land in Denton;² and in 1415 the name of Robert de Redyche occurs in a list of the retainers of Sir Nicholas Longford Knt., where he is named as attending Sir Nicholas at the battle of Agincourt.³

Otho or Otes Reddish of Reddish, whose Inquisition p.m. is dated 14 Henry VIII. (1522-3), was the eldest son of John de Reddish by Elizabeth, daughter of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq. He married Lucy, daughter of John Dukinfield of Portwood Esq., and had issue a son, John Reddish, by whom he was succeeded.

¹ Rog' fil' Willi tenet j caruc' in Redich' in thanag' p' vj^s. Math' de Radich' ten't illā terrā de ip'o Rogo' p' idem serviciū. — *Testa de Nevill*.

² Harl. MSS. 2,112 fo. 119.

³ Harl. MS. 782.

John Reddish Esq. was forty-six years of age on succeeding to the estates of the family. He died in the 1 Elizabeth (1558), as appears from an Inquisition p. m. of that date, seised of the manor of Reddish, and also of lands in Over Heaton, Heaton super Faughfield, Heaton Norris, Manchester, Aldewynghowe in Ashton, and Crumpsall. His wife was Clemence, daughter of Robert Worsley of Boothes Esq.

WILL OF JOHN REDDISH OF REDDISH ESQ. : —

In the name of God amen. The seventh daye of January in y^e yeare of o^r lord God a thousand fyve hundreth fiftie and seven, — and also in y^e fourthe and fyfte yeare of y^e reigne of o^r sov'aygne lord and ladie Phillipe and Marie by y^e grace of God Kynge and Quene of England, Spaine, ffrance, both Cieylls, Jerusalem, and Ireland, Defenders of y^e faythe, Archedukes of Austeria, Dukes of Burgandie, Melen and Braband, Conti's of Haspurge, fflanders and Tirall; — I John Rediche of Rediche wⁱⁿ y^e cōntie of Lancast^r Esquire beyng whole in bodie, and of good and p^rfecte mynd and memorye, thankes unto God, do ordeue, make and declare this p^rsente testamēt indented herein contened my last will in man^r and forme followinge; y^t is to saye first I geve and bequeth my soule unto Almyghtie God my Maker and Redemer, and my bodie and bones to Christian buriall where as y^e bones of myne ancestors do lie. Also I will y^t my funerals shalbe made and deducted out of my whole goodes. Also I geve and bequeth to John Rediche, soñe of Otes Rediche my soñe decesed, and now beyng heire apparant unto me y^e foresayd John Redich, all and all manor my waynes, cartes, plowes, harrowes and irons belonging to y^e same, w^t all teames, yokes, axes, awgars, spades, suvels, mattockes and all other instrumēt belonging to husbandrie. Also I geve and bequeth to the forsayd John Redishe all y^e rest, reversion and remender of all my whole goodes and cattels movable and unmovable belonging unto me y^e sayd John Redishe whatsoever y^e be and where soev^r y^e shalbe founde, as well within my house at Redish aforesayd and w^toute as elsewhere. Also I will y^t the foresayd John Rediche in cōsideracion of the forsayd goodes, cattels

w^{ch} I have geven and bequethed unto hym by this my last will and testamēt shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Ane Redishe, doughtr of me y^e foresayd John Rediche wⁱⁿ thre yeres nexte and immediatelie after my deccase, at such dayes of paymēt as he and she can agree upon for y^e same, the so^me of fortie poundes of good usuall money of England w^{ch} sayd so^me y^e sayd Ane upon hir owne mere mynd and cōsent is cōtented to take and receve in full recōpence, satisffacion, comutacion and paymēt of all suche childes p^{te} of goodes, cattels and dettes as mygte, shuld or ought to have byne due to y^e sayd Ane by reson of y^e deathe of me y^e sayd John Redishe. Also I will that the said John Rediche shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Elizabethⁿ Redishe, Margaret Redich and Isabel Redishe his sisters, to ev^y of them y^e so^me of xx^{tie} markes of good and lawfull money of England at such tyme as y^e and ev^y of them shall come unto honest p^rfermēt by mariage or oth^r wise; and if it fortune any of them y^e forsayed Elizabeth Redich, Margaret and Isabell Redich to dep^{te} this life before they do come unto mariage or oth^r p^rfermēt as is aforesayd I will y^t then such so^me and so^mes of money as should have byne payed and deliv^d unto hir so dep^{tinge} shall remene and be payable unto hir oth^r sisters then beyng in playne life. Also I will y^t y^e sayd John Rediche shall paye and deliv^r or cause to be payed and deliv^d unto Robert Redich my so^me immediatly aft^r my deccase y^e so^me of xx^{ti} markes of good usuall money of England w^{ch} he y^e sayd Robarte is cōtented to take and receve in full recōpence, satisffacōn, comutacion and paymēt of all suche childes p^{te} of goodes, cattels and dettes as myghte, shuld or oughte to have been due unto hym by reson of the death of me y^e forsayd John Rediche his fath^r. And also I will y^t if myne executo^{rs} or any of them at any tyme or tymes hereaft^r shalbe putt to any trouble or vexacion by sute of lawe or oth^r wise, of for and cōcⁿyng ther ex^cucion of this my last will and testamēt y^t then they and ev^y of them shall have y^r chargis borne from tyme to tyme of my hole goodes not p^ticularly bequethed; and further more I will y^t if any clause or article cōtened in this my last will and testamēt be contrary and

repugnante to any law or statute of this realme of Englande, y^t then y^e same shalbe reformed accordinge to y^e true meanynge of this my sayd last will. And to y^e entente y^t this my last will and testamēt may be well and truly accomplished in all causes according to y^e tenor, forme, effecte and trew menyng of ye same I co'stute, ordene, make and appoynte the forsayde John Rediche, Robarte Rediche, Thomas Rediche my bastard brothr, Wiltm Nicholson and Thom^s Nicholson my full and lawfull execto^{rs}, and my worshipfull cosins Edward Holland of Denton, and Alexander Barlow of Barlow Esquires ov'scers of y^e same. — In witnes whereof I have set my seale and signed y^e same w^t my hands, these beyng witnes, Otewell Rediche, Wiltm Nicolsonn junior, John Bestwicke, wth others, that is to saye S^r James Broke chapleyne and Geffrey Holme.

Otes Reddish, the eldest son of the testator, died during his father's life-time, having married Alice, daughter of Ralph Prestwich of Hulme Esq., and by her he left issue, besides other children, John, who succeeded his grandfather, and George, who settled at Clifton in the parish of Eccles. Alice Reddish survived her husband many years. Her will is dated March 17, 1575-6 (proved at Chester March 29, 1576). She describes herself as of Heaton faulghefeld, widow, "latte wyffe of Ottes Rediche of Rediche Esq. decessed." She desires to be buried in Manchester Church in the syde eyell near unto her late husband. After her debts &c. paid she wills that her goods &c. be equally divided amongst George, Thomas, and Isabel Redich, her three children, her executors. She appoints as supervisors of her will her brother Edmund Prestwich of Holme Esq., her cousin Alexander Barlow of Barlow Esq., and her brother-in-law Edmund Assheton of Chadderton Esq. Witnesses, Rauffe Hogden, Edmund Hylton, Thomas Bolton, with others. Debts owing by the testatrix, — Isabel Redich, her daughter xxxij^{li}; Thomas Redich her son vij^{li}; Robert Haworthe vij^{li} xij^s iiij^d. Thomas and Isabel renounce the executorship.

George Reddish, third son of Otes Reddish Esq., married Dorothy, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton of Honford in the county of Chester, and from him branched Reddish of Clifton. He makes

his will December 16, 1587 (proved at Chester October 29, 1588). He commends his soul to God and his body to the earth, and his worldly goods to be disposed of as follows:—First he wills that all the tenement or farm he holds, taken of Mr. Worsley of the Boothes, shall remain unto Dorothie his wife during her life, and afterwards, that it shall return to his two sons Otes and William Radish. Also he gives to his said wife all the term and occupation of James Clayton's field at the will and pleasure of his (testator) good nephew. Also he gives the lease of his house in Manchester unto his said wife. And as for the rest of his worldly goods, he wills that they be equally divided into three even parts, whercof he gives one part to his wife, the second part to his children, and the third and last part he reserves to himself and to his own use. He wills this to stand and remain his last will and testament, of which he appoints his wife Dorothy Reddish and his brother-in-law William Bruerton of Hanford Esq. executors. Witnesses, Thomas Reddiche, William Grynhill, Thomas Wilson and Christopher Hall.

Debts owing to testator:—Thomas Goodyer of Manchester, draper, and George Birche, mercer, as appeareth by an obligacōn, the sum of C^{li}.

Item of the Widdowe Birche at the Church Style in Manchester xx^s.

Item, a bargaine of wood bought of Mr. Holland of Clifton cost xx^{li}.

Item, a bargaine of ecrtaine grounde taken of Mr. Duckenfeild, fforty poundes.

The inventory of his goods and chattels amounts but to £125 9s. 5d., including £22 in plate. It enumerates "thinges at the Boothes," "thinges at Chetham Hill," "thinges at William Wood his house in Manchester." Dorothy his wife died in 1623-4, and was buried at the Collegiate Church of Manchester January 30 in that year. Her will, dated the 28th of December 1619, is as follows:—

In the name of God amen. The eighte and twentieth daie of December in the yeare of the reigne of oure most dread soveraigne

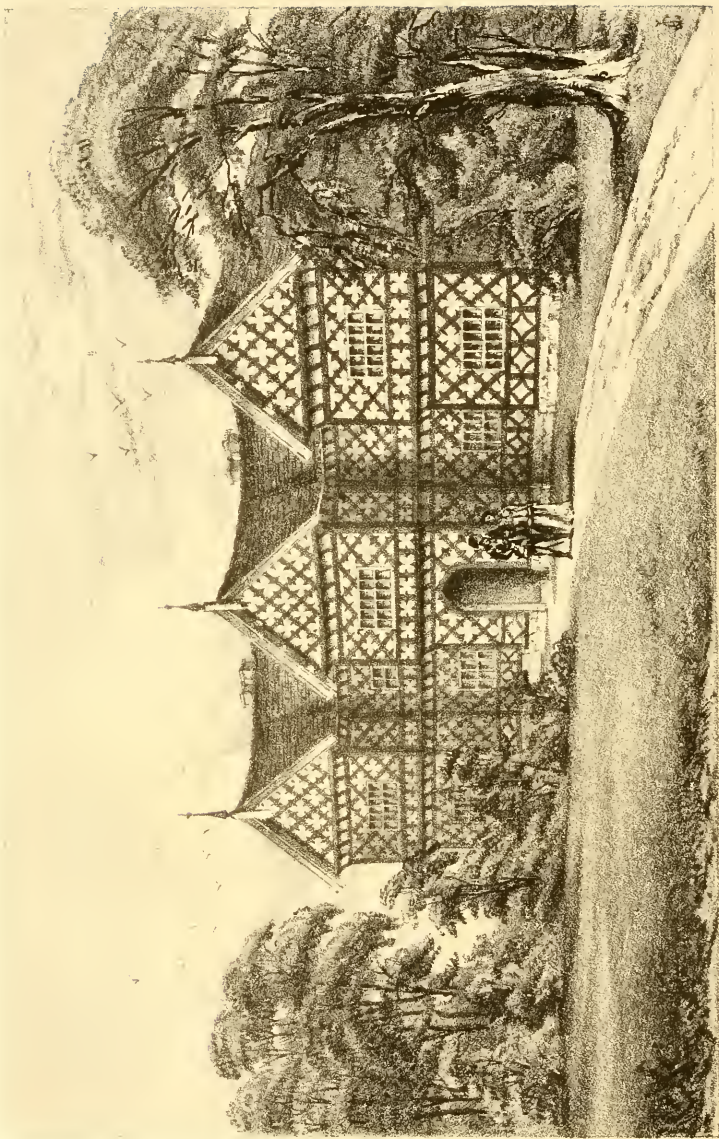
Lord James, by the grace of God Kinge of Englande, Scotlande, ffrance and Irelande, Defender of the faith, &c.; that is to saie, of Englande, ffrance and Irelande the seavententh, and of Scotlande the three and fyftieth; I Dorothie Reddish widowe, late wyfe of George Reddish late of Reddish in the countie of Lancaster gent. deceased, beinge in good health and perfect remembrance, God therefore bee praised, and knowinge death to bee most certaine to all people, do make and devise this my last will and testament, in manner and forme followinge:—ffirst and principally I doe comitt my soule to God Almightye my Maker, trustinge to bee saved by the precious bloodsheedinge of His deere sonne Jhesus Christe my Redeemer, and my bodie to be buried and entombed in the parish church where it shall please God I shall depart, and that a hearse to bee sett over mee accordinge to my birth and callinge. And I doe revoke and recall all former wills and testaments heretofore made by mee the said Dorothie. And for the disposinge and leavinge of such worldlie goodes, Jewells and chattells as I shall have or die possessed of at the tyme of my death, my will, entente and minde is as followeth: Item I do geve and bequeath to my sonne Oates Reddish one hundreth pounds and my signet ringe. Item I do geve to my graundchild Margret Hardman fourtie pounds to be paied unto her at her mariage, and in the meane tyme my said sonne Oates Redish to ymploie the same to and for her use and behoofe, yeeldinge and paying yearlie to the said Margret upon the feast daie of St. Thomas the apostle duringe so longe tyme as she shall lyve unmarried the some of foure pounds of lawfull English money. And yf it please God shee die before shee be maried, then my will and mynd is that my said sonne Oates Redish shall have the same some of foure pounds to his owne proper use and benefitte. Item I do gyve to my sonne Edward Redish the some of foure score pounds; and I do geve to the children of the same Edward my sonne twentie poundes to be equally divided amongst them. Item, Whereas I have alreadye geven to my sonne in lawe Thomas Pigott foure score pounds yet nev'thelesse I do geve to the said Thomas

my bedd and furniture belonginge unto it and twelve pence in money in full satisfaccōn of such portion of goods as he the said Thomas might at my death clame in right of Jane his wife and my daughter. Item I do geve to the children of the same Thomas Pygott twentye pounds to be equally divided amongst them. Item I doe geve to my sonne in lawe John Porter fourtie pounds w^{ch} I already have lent him, and I geve to Alice his wyfe and my daughter twentie pounds. Item I doe geve to my nephewe William Brereton off Hanford Esquier a double sovereigne to make him a ringe. Item I geve to my brother Urian Brereton one angell in gold to make him a ringe. Item I do geve to the poore in the parish where I shall die twentie shillings to be devided at my funerall. Item I doe geve to the Churchwardens of the parish church of Chedle in the county of Chester and their successors fyve pounds of lawfull money of England to bee imployed yearelie towards the releif of the poore in that parish by the said Churchwardens at the oversight of whomsoever shall bee the lord and owner of the Hall of Honford; and that the profite of the said fyve pounds to be geven yearly upon every Good fridaie to twentie the most impotent and distressed people in the said parish by sixpence a peece. Item I do geve and bequeth to the Churchwardens of the parish of Wilmeslow in the said county and their successors fyve pounds of lawfull English money to be imployed and put forthe yearlie towards the releif of the poore within the said parish of Wilmeslow by the said Churchwardens at the oversight of whomsoever shall be the lord and owner of the Hall of Honford, &c. Item I do geve to my cozen Elizabeth Leycester of Tabley the sōme of foure markes in money to buy her a ringe withall. Item my will and mynd is that after my debtes, legacies and funerall expenses beinge paied and satisfied, I do geve and bequeth all the rest and residue of my goodes, jewells, cattells, chattells and moveables whatsoever to my three daughters, Margaret, Alice and Jane, to be equally devided amongst them of the free gifte of mee the said Dorothe Reddish their mother. And I do constitute, ordaine and make my sonne Edward Reddish and

my sonne in lawe Thomas Pygott executors of this my last will and testament to execute and p'forme the same accordinge to the true intent and meaninge of this my last will. And I do nominate, require and praie my loving sonne Oates Reddish to be an overseer of this my last will and testament, entreatinge him to be an assistant to see the same well p'formed accordinge to the true meaninge thereof. And in witnes whereof I the said Dorothe Reddish have hereunto put my hand and seale as my last will the daie and yeare first within written, Anno Dñi 1619. Witnesses, Matthew Coukson, Peter Deane, William Johnson. Her inventory is dated January 21, 1623; her goods and chattels are valued at £560 15s. 6d.

To return to the elder brother John Reddish, heir to his grandfather in the first year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. He was yet a minor when he succeeded to the estates. He married Margaret, daughter and coheirress of Sir Robert Langley of Agecroft Knt., and dying in 1569 left two sons, Edward, who died s.p. and Alexander his successor, the last heir male of the family seated at Reddish, whose daughters and coheirresses, Sarah and Grace, married, the one Clement, sixth son of Sir Edward Coke Knt., Chief Justice of England, and the other Sir Robert D'Arci of Dertford in the county of Kent Knt., Great Usher of the Privy Chamber to Henry Prince of Wales. Alexander Reddish Esq. died in 1613.

On the death of Alexander Reddish Esq. the lands of the township, together with other estates in the county, passed into the possession of Clement Coke Esq. in right of Sarah his wife, daughter and coheirress of the said Alexander. Their descendants continued in the enjoyment of them until the close of the last century, when Thomas William Coke Esq. the then owner, wishing to concentrate his property by adding to his Norfolk estates, disposed of Reddish Hall and demesne, together with other lands in the township, to James Harrison of Cheadle Esq., by whose representatives it was sold June 23, 1808, under authority of an Act of Parliament obtained for the purpose, to Messrs. Greg of Manchester, in whom



Engraved by James Craxton

Engraved by James Craxton

Reddish Hall,

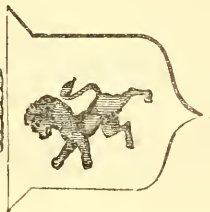
THE ANCIENT SEAT OF THE REDDISH FAMILY.

it is now vested. The estates thus disposed of were in extent upwards of four hundred acres statute measure.

Reddish Hall was situated on the east side of the township, and was taken down about the year 1780. It was an ancient timbered house of singularly interesting character, and was a very perfect example of the style of domestic architecture prevailing in this part of the kingdom during the fourteenth and two succeeding centuries. The building, originally surrounded by a moat, is said to have been quadrangular in form, enclosing a court-yard, the entrance to which was by a covered archway from the front. With the exception of the basement, which was of solid masonry, the building was constructed entirely of timber and plaster, the details being rather elaborately ornamented. The spaces formed by the intersection of the massive oaken timbers were arranged in diaper-like patterns, and the small intervening compartments filled in with quatrefoils. The principal front, that given in the accompanying illustration, approached in plan somewhat the form of the letter E, having a projecting bay at each end and in the centre, the latter forming the porch, and constituting the main entrance to the hall. These several bays were gabled, and protected by ornamental barge-boards, each surmounted at the apex by a hip-knob. The building was of two stories, and retained the usual peculiarity of the style, having the upper story projecting somewhat beyond the lower. In the interior, the great hall as also several of the other apartments were wainscoted, the upper panels being charged with armorial bearings of the Reddish family. In one apartment the carving was left incomplete, and there was a tradition that the artist was condemned to die, but respited by the king until his work was finished, and that to avoid the penalty he never completed his contract, — an improbable supposition, which doubtless had no better foundation than the existence of certain shields left blank, whereon to record the future alliances of the family. Attached to the hall, and approached by a door to the left under the entrance gateway, was the domestic chapel appropriated to the use of the family and their retainers. The apartment over the gateway was known as the priest's chamber.

Reddish of Reddish.

(From *Hart. MS.* 1987, fol. 50; from a copy of the *Visitation of 1567 in the Chetham Library*; from *Wills, Registrars, &c.*)



Richard de Reddish, ob. 13 Feb. 5 Hen. IV.; inq. p. m. 5 Hen. IV. = Dodds. vol. lxxxvii. fol. 31.

Radus de Reddish, act. 30, 5 Hen. IV.; ob. s. p.

Otes de Reddish, 10 Hen. IV., 2 Hen. VI. = Ellen, mater Ricci.

Richard de Reddish =

John de Reddish, = Elizabeth, dan. of Thurstan Holland of Denton Esq., 20 Hen. VI.; mar. cov. dat. 12 Jan. 20 Hen. VI. She was then under 16 years of age. — *Hart. MSS.* 2112, fol. 150.

Otes Reddish of Reddish; = Lucy, dau. of John Duckenfield of Portwood.

Margaret, = John, son and heir mar. 1 Hen. VIII. of Henry Leigh of Baguley.

Ann. = Ellis Barlow of Barlow Esq.

John Reddish of Reddish, = Clemence, dau. of Robert Worsley dat. Jan. 7, 1557-8, and pr. Dec. 17, 1559; inq. p. m. 1 Eliz.

Elizabeth, = Robert Reddish of Doddleston, co. Chester; ob. 3 Edw. VI.

Robert Reddish, ob. s. p.; execution of his father's will 1557-8.

Otes Reddish, = Alice, dan. of Ralph and sister and coheir of Edmund Prestwich of Hulme; will dat. March 17, 1575-6, and pr. at Chester March 29, 1576; bur. at Coll. Ch. March 19, 1575-6.

Alice, = Hamon Whichcote of Whichcote.

Lucy, liv. Jan. 1557-8; bur. at Coll. Ch. May 13, 1589.

2 Edmund, 4 Robert, 5 Thomas, executor of his mother's will 1575-6.

George Reddish of Clifton, = Dorothy, dan. of executor of his mother's will; his will dat. Dec. 16, 1587, and pr. at Chester Oct. 29, 1588; will dat. 28 Dec. bur. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 27, 1587. 17 Jas. I. (1619).

John Reddish of Reddish, = Margaret, dan. and coheir of Sir Robert Langley of Agecroft Knt.; sole executrix of her husband John Reddish's will.

1 Elizabeth, liv. 1557-8, 1569. 2 Margaret, liv. 1557-8, 1569. 3 Isabella, liv. 1557-8; executrix of her mother's will 1575-6.

Alexander Reddish of Reddish, = Katharine, dan. and heiress of Humphrey De-thic of Newhall, co. Derby.

Edward Reddish, ob. s. p.; mentioned in his father's will 1569.

Anne, = Marmaduke Thwenge of Upper Holmesley, co. York; et. 24, 1584; dead 1588.

Sarah, dan. and coheir; = Clement, sixth son of Sir Edward Coke Knt. Chief Justice of England. inq. p. m. 6 Car. I.

Grace, dan. and coheir; = Sir Robert D'Arcei of Dertford, co. Kent, Knt.; Great Usher to the Privy Chambers to Henry Prince of Wales.

The township of Reddish derives additional celebrity as having been at a very early period the seat of the Hulme family, ancestors of William Hulme the munificent founder of the Exhibitions at Brazenose College, Oxford, which bear his name.

By an undated deed, Robert, son of William de Hulme conveys to Richard del Hull "capellanus" certain messuages in Rediche. This conveyance appears to have been made in order to a settlement of estates incident to the marriage of his son, since in an accompanying deed, also without date, there is a re-conveyance on the part of Richard de Hull of the same estates to Robert, son of William de Hulme and Margaret his wife. In another deed, undated, William de Hulme, described as of Reddish, conveys to John, his brother, certain lands and tenements in Reddish, Denton and Heaton Norris. As to the time when these conveyances were made we can but conjecture; the absence of dates seems to point to a period not later than the year 1290.

Laurence, third son of Robert Hulme, described as of "Hulme juxta Stockport," was living in the 9 Henry V. (1421). He was succeeded by his son Geoffrey, who married Cecily, daughter of William Hulton of Farnworth Esq. In the 8 Elizabeth (1565) Robert Hulme, great-grandson of the above-named Geoffrey, entered a suit at Lancaster against Thomas Hulme, touching an alleged unlawful detention of title-deeds of messuages and lands pledged for security of money lent; the premises in dispute being situated in Reddish, Heaton Norris and Denton. Eight years later he was defendant before the same court in an action with George Hulme, probably a relative, whose name does not however appear in the family pedigree. The property then litigated was a messuage and lands called Tynklers and other lands in Maghull, Reddish, Hulme and Heaton. He died in the 27 Elizabeth (1584) leaving issue by his wife Anne, daughter of Robert Holt of Ashworth Esq., a son Ralph, of whom it is stated that he purchased certain lands with a capital messuage in Hulme in the county of Lancaster.

Ralph Hulme married Thomasine, daughter and heiress of John

Marler of Manchester, and on the 1st of May 1602 Letters of Administration of her father's estate were granted to her husband and herself. Dissensions afterwards sprung up between them, and in 1614, as appears from certain proceedings in the Consistory Court at Chester, they were living apart. She survived her husband about four years, dying in 1627. Her will is dated December 25, 1627. She mentions therein her eldest son William, her daughter Jane, and her younger son John. To the latter she bequeaths all her property. She complains of the unnatural behaviour of her elder son and her daughter, and of the unkind treatment she had received from her husband. Ralph Hulme died in 1623.

William Hulme, the eldest son of this unhappy marriage, succeeded to the estates on the death of his father. His wife was Christian, daughter of Richard Banaster of Oakenbottom in the county of Lancaster. He makes his will December 20, 1637. — In the name of God amen. The twentieth daye of December in the yeare of the raigue of our Sov'aigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, ffraunce and Ireland, Kinge, Defendor of the faith. I William Hulme of Hulme in Redich in the p'ish of Manchester and countie of Lancaster, gentleman, being of whole mynde and p'fect memorie, laude and praise be geven to God therefore, doe make, publish and declare my present testament conteineing herein my last will in manner and forme following: — That is to saye, ffirst and principally I commit and commend my soule into the hands of Allmightie God my Maker and Preserver, hopinge in the merits of Jesus Christ His Sonne to be one of the number of His eilect; and my bodie to be buried in my owne Chappell adioyning to Jesus Chappell w'in the p'ish Church of Manchester, or where yt shall please God to dispose yt. And as concerneing my worldly estate touchinge my landes, tenementes, goodes, debtes, cattelles and chatelles, yt is my mynd and will they shall be disposed of as hereafter followeth: and first yt is my mynd and will that all the lands belonginge to Hulme and in Manchester or els wheare shall stand and be setled with the

p'fects theireof according to the forme, effecte and true meaning of one Decd indented and made betweene me and certeine ffeoffees in trust relacōn theireunto had yt shall and maye more fullie appeare. And allsoe it ys my mynd and will that my funerall expences, debts and legacies shall be taken and payed out of all my whole goods, debts, cattells and chattells whatsoever. And first I give and bequeath unto Maister Hulton now minister att Ringley Chappell twentie shillings of lawefull money of England. Allsoe I give and bequeath unto the Chappell of Ringley the sūme of ffyve pounds of good and lawefull money of England to be employed for the better yearely maineteineing of a minister theire. Item I give and bequeath unto Anne Barlowe my nursse tenn shillings. Item I give and bequeath unto Abraham fletcher, sonne of Thomas fletcher of Stonicliffe, twentic shillings to be used onely for the benefyte of the said Abraham till he doe accomplish the age of twentie and one yeares. Item I doe give and bequeath unto Raphe fletcher who now dwells wth me the sūme of sixe pounds of lawefull money of England, to bynde him prentice to some gainefull occupacōn. Item I doe give unto the same Raphe my stuffe coate, my greene dublet and breeches. Item I give unto my brother John Hulme my blacke cloake and my watch. Item yt is my mynd and will and my desire is that my ffeoffees would p'mit and suffer Ellen Hulme to have some convenient place to dwell in rente free till her two sonnes be able to keepe themselves. Item it is further my mynde and will that after my debts paid, theise legacies beforenamed and my funeralls expences truly deducted, that all the rest and remainder of all my said goods, debts, cattells and chattells, I refer them in trust to John Hulme my brother to be used by him or by his appointment to and for the use and behoofe of William Hulme my sonne, accompting theireof to the said William Hulme when he the said William shall accomplish the age of twentie and one yeares, or in case of his death, then to the issue of the said William Hulme my sonne. And that this my last Will and Testament maye well and truly be p'formed accordinge to true intent and meaneing of me

the said William Hulme, I doe hereby appointe, ordaine and make my welbeloved brother John Hulme my sole and onely execcutor to p'forme the same as my trust is in him. And I doe hereby adnull and revoke all and everie other and former testament, gifte, legacie, bequest and execcutor whatsoever att any tyme heretofore by me in anye wise made, named, willed or bequethed. In witnes whereof I the said William Hulme have hereunto put my hand and seale the daye and yeare abovesaid, 1637. Witnesses, William Ashton, Joseph Lees, Thomas Cadewell, George Hulme.

The inventory of his goods and chattels is three-fold; first, as taken "at his house called Hulme in Redich in the countie of Lancaster, taken the seconde day of Januarie anno Dñi 1637;" secondly, "More goodes of the said William Hulme at his howse in Outwood in the parish of Prestwich taken 3 Januarie 1637;" and thirdly, "More goodes of the said William Hulme at his howse called Withingreaves Hall wthin the towne of Manchester." The will was proved at Chester December 27, 1637.

He was succeeded by his son William Hulme the Founder, who was born September 10, 1631, and would therefore be but six years old at the time of his father's death. He married in 1653 Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Ralph Robinson of Kersley in the county of Lancaster, and by her had issue an only son, Banaster Hulme, who died in the life-time of his father. Being left childless, he devoted his estates to charitable uses, subject (in part) to a life-interest in them bequeathed to his widow. He died October 29, 1691, and was buried in the chapel founded by his ancestors within the Collegiate Church of Manchester. His will is dated October 24th in the same year:—

I William Hulme, of Kearsley, within the county of Lancaster, Esquire, doe hereby revoke all former wills by me made, and do ordain and make this my last will and testament as followeth: And first I do give and devise unto William Baguley, gent, my cosen, and to his assignes, my messuages, tenements and lands in Kearsley and in Outwood and Whitefield in Pilkington, in the said county, w^{ch} I hold under the severall demyses of the Right

Honourable the Earle of Derby and John Starkie Esq., during my interest and title therein, upon this trust and condition, that he the said William Baguley or his assigns shall annually pay unto Richard Baguley, his brother, and to Christopher and Alexander Baguley, his uncles, the respective sums of ten pounds a-piece at Lady Day and Michaelmas Day, equall porcōns yearly during the continuance of the said William his interest therein; and likewise upon this further condition, that in case Elizabeth my now wife shall be desirous to inhabit in or upon the said messuage and tenement in Kearsley, that then he the said William Baguley and his assigns shall permitt her the said Elizabeth to hold and enjoy the said messuage and tenement for and during so many years as she the said Elizabeth shall pay unto the said William Baguley or his assignes the annuall sum of eighteen pounds; and as to my messuages, tenements and lands of inheritance in Heaton Norris, Denton, Ashton-under-Line, Redditch, Manchester and Harwood, in the said county, it is my will and mind, and I do hereby devise all that my capitall messuage, tenement and demesne lands, called Hulme Edgcroft and Hulme's Moor, in Redditch and Denton aforesaid, unto the said Elizabeth my wife, during her life, in lieu and recompence of her jointure and dower, she maintaining and keeping the houses and fences of or belonging to the same in good and sufficient repair during her interest therein; and after the decease of my said wife, ^{Yⁿ} It is my further will, and I do hereby devise unto my said cosens, Christopher Baguley, Alexander Baguley and Richard Baguley, the several respective annuall sums of ten pounds a-piece, to be issuing out of my said capitall messuage, tenement and lands last mencōned, and to be payable unto them respectively at Lady Day and Michaelmas, by equal portions, for and during the term of their severall lives respectively; and for non-payment thereof it shall be lawfull unto and for the said Christopher, Alexander and Richard, severally to distraine in and upon the premisses, from time to time, as in case of a rent-charge. All the rest and residue of my said inheritable lands and hereditaments, from and after my decease, and the reversion of the said

capitall messuage, demesne lands and premisses soe devised unto her as aforesaid, from and after her decease charged and chargeable as is afores^d, I do hereby devise and give unto James Chetham of Turton Esq., William Hulme of Davylhulme Esq., and the said William Baguley, my kinsman, and their heirs for ever, to the intent and purpose that the clear annuall rents, issues and profits thence arising and growing, over and above all charges and reprises, shall be paid and distributed to and amongst such four of the poor sort of batchellors of arts taken such degree in Brazen-nose Colledge in Oxford, as from time to time shall resolve to continue and reside there by the space of four years after such degree taken, equally and proportionably, as the same rents, issues and profits shall annually amount unto, and so to continue to such like four poor batchellors, successively for ever, such said batchellors from time to time to be nominated and approved of by the Warden of the Collegiate Church of Manchester, the rectors of the parish churches of Prestwich and of Bury, in the said county of Lancaster for the time being, and their successors for ever, my mind and will being that noe such batchellors shall continue to have anything of this my exhibition but only for the space of four years, to be accompted from the time of such degree taken. As to the personall estate of goods, chattles, debts and credits wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me, it is my will, and I do hereby give one third part (in three parts to be divided) thereof unto the said Elizabeth my wife. Item I give and bequeath unto James Taylor the younger, of Brightmet, the fifteen pounds w^{ch} he oweth unto me by bond, and to Elizabeth his mother five pounds, and unto James Taylor her husband the forty shillings which he owes unto me. Item I give unto the wife of James Burgess of Manchester, five pounds; to Edmund Greaves, my servant, forty shillings. Item I give unto Joshua Dixon, clerk, five pounds, whom I desire to preach my funerall sermon; and all the rest and residue of my said personall estate, after my debts, legacies and funerall expenses paid and discharged, I give and bequeath unto the said William, Christopher, Alexander and Richard Baguley,

equally to be divided amongst them. And of this my last will I constitute and make the said William Baguley sole executor. In witnes whereof I have hereunto put my hand seal the four-and-twentieth day of October, Anno Dñi Millesimo sexcentesimo nonagesimo primo 1691.

And my further will is, that the said Elizabeth my wife, over and above the said third part of my personall estate, shall have the trunck and goods therein w^{ch} was her late mother's, and all y^e goods and furniture now remaining in the chamber and rooms at Manchester where we used to lodge, now in the holding of Richard Hopwood, and such other household goods now in the house at Kearsley, where wee inhabit, as she shall reasonably desire for the better furnishing of the said chamber roomes; and moreover shall have the use and occupacōn of the same chamber and roomes without the paying of any rent for the same during her natural life.

W. HULME.

This writing was signed and sealed by the above-named William Hulme, and by him declared as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who have hereunder written our names as witnesses, in the presence of the said testator: Tho. Lever, Tho. Sergeant, Tho. Loe, Mar^t Dawson.

His widow survived him nearly nine years, and dying in 1700 was buried July 5, at the Collegiate Church.¹ She is described in her will, which bears date June 19, 1700, as Elizabeth Hulme of

¹ The precise spot within the walls of the Collegiate Church where are deposited the remains of many members of this family is the chapel which bears their name, built by some long-forgotten ancestor. The chief memorials still to be traced are commemorative of William Hulme Esq. the Founder and Elizabeth his wife. A flag-stone in the centre of the chapel is thus inscribed:—

Hic jacet corpus Gulielmi Hulme de Hulme armigeri qui obiit vicesimo nono Octobris anno Domini 1691, ætat. suæ 61.

Sub hoc lapide eum marito charissimo nec non peramabili filio, Elizabeth Hulme de Hulme in Reddish vidua quinto die Julii anno Domini 1700 deposita tandem requievit. Hic etiam jacet corpus filii Banister Hulme, sepulti undecimo die Septembris A.D. 1673. At the foot of the stone are sculptured the arms of the family:—Barry of eight; on a canton a chaplet. Crest: a lion's head crased; on his head a cap of maintenance.

Kersley widow. She names therein her cousin William Baguley of Kersley gent.; Richard Baguley, clerk, his brother; her cousin Christopher Baguley, of Outwood; Elizabeth, daughter of the late Richard Bradshaw of Pennington Esq., to whom she bequeaths the sum of £900; her niece Mary, wife of Charles Manwaring of Pennington gent., and daughter of her (testatrix) sister Jane Egerton; her niece Anne, wife of John Crosse of Turton gent., the other daughter of her (testatrix) sister Jane Egerton.

She names as her executor William Assheton clerk, rector of Prestwich.

On the death of Mrs. Hulme the reversion of the rest of the estates came to the trustees named in her husband's will. At this time the number of exhibitors was four, and the annual rental of the estates was about £30 or £40, but this could scarcely include the estates in which Mrs. Hulme had possessed a life-interest. Each exhibitor received £10 per annum.

In 1770 an Act of Parliament was obtained by the trustees to enable them to grant building-leases of lands belonging to the Charity, situated within the town of Manchester, for terms not exceeding ninety-nine years, or for one, two or three lives. Power was also given to increase the number of exhibitions from four to ten, and the yearly allowance to the exhibitors from £60 to £80.

By a later act, 35 George III. cap. 62 (1795), further powers were granted to the trustees to convey in fee, or to grant leases for lives or for long terms of years, with or without covenants for renewal, under reserved yearly rents. They were also empowered to increase the number of exhibitions to fifteen, and the annual allowance to each exhibitor to £110.

In 1814 a private act was passed (54 George III. cap. 205) entitled "An act for amending two several acts of the 10th and 35th years of the reign of his present Majesty relating to the estates devised by William Hulme Esq., and to enable the trustees thereof to apply the trust monies in making an allowance to and provision for the exhibitors of certain exhibitions founded by the said testator in Brazenose College, Oxford; and also in found-

ing and supporting a lecture in Divinity in the said college, and to incorporate the said trustees, and for other the purposes therein mentioned." After reciting that by reason of the great increase in the value of the said trust estate since the passing of the last-recited act, the annual proceeds arising therefrom, amounting to the yearly sum of £2,502 16s. 8d. over and above the interest of the sum of £23,700 which the said trustees had saved out of the rents and profits of the said trust estates, after paying and applying such parts thereof as they had from time to time deemed necessary and expedient for the support and improvement of the said estates, it was enacted as follows : —

1. To allow to each exhibitioner such annual sum as they (the trustees) should think proper, not exceeding £220.
2. To provide rooms and lodgings in Oxford for the residence and accommodation of the exhibitors rent-free, and for that purpose to purchase or lease, and alter and improve or build houses in Oxford.
3. Not to lay out for the last-mentioned purpose more than £5,000.
4. To pay a Lecturer in Divinity, to be annually nominated by the Principal of Brazenose College, such an annual sum as the trustees should think fit, not exceeding £150.
5. The fifth section incorporates the trustees by the title of "The Trustees of the estate devised by William Hulme Esq.," and empowers them to have and use a seal with Hulme's coat of arms engraved thereon, and inscribed "Sigillum Hulmianum."
6. To elect and choose as many persons as would keep up the number of trustees at twelve.
7. To provide for an annual meeting of the trustees in Manchester on the first Thursday after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel, between ten and twelve, for the transaction of all business relating to the trust estates.
8. To empower the nominators to appoint undergraduates as exhibitors (hitherto the choice of the trustees had been

limited to bachelors of arts, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Hulme's will).

9. To empower the trustees to dispense with the residence of exhibitors in college for certain terms.
- 10 and 11. Provisions for payment of expenses.
12. Provides that a statement of the annual receipts and disbursements should be transmitted to each trustee.
13. Provides that buildings to be purchased in Oxford should not be part of Brazenose College unless accessible to the college by the common gate.

In 1827 the trustees had again recourse to Parliament for a further extension of their powers. The act then obtained (6 and 7 George IV. cap. 9) is entitled "An act to enable the trustees of the estates devised by William Hulme Esq. to appropriate certain parts of the accumulated funds arising from the said estates in the purchase of advowsons, and for other purposes therein mentioned." After reciting that the number of exhibitors remained the same as at the passing of the last act, and that the value of the exhibitions had been gradually augmented, the value of each being now £155, namely £120 towards maintenance and lodging, and £35 for books; and that a lecturer in Divinity had been appointed at a yearly salary of £105; that as yet they had been unable to carry into effect the provisions of that act by which they were empowered to provide rooms and lodgings in Oxford for the exhibitors; that at the last annual meeting in 1826 the annual income arising from such part of the said trust estates as consisted of lands and hereditaments amounted to the sum of £3,291 17s. 11d., and that the accumulated fund which had from time to time arisen from the surplus rents and profits of the said trust estates amounted to the sum of £42,203 0s. 4d., and that the dividends and interest annually accruing from such fund produced the sum of £1,658 19s.; it was enacted as follows:—

1. The trustees are empowered to purchase out of the existing and future accumulations, advowsons or other ecclesiastical benefices provided that a surplus accumulated fund of

£20,000 shall be left at the least, and that not more than £7,000 should be expended on one advowson.

2. That notice of all purchases should be given to the Bishop of Chester and to the Principal of Brazenose College.
3. That the trustees should transmit to the Bishop of Chester a list of all who had been exhibitioners on Hulme's foundation; and in every succeeding year a list of all who had been nominated exhibitioners in that year.
4. That notice of avoidance of any living should be given to the Bishop of Chester and to the Principal of Brazenose College.
5. That within five months after the avoidance of any living the trustees should present another fit person.
6. That if the trustees do not present within five months, the appointment to lapse to the Bishop of Chester out of persons who had been exhibitioners.
7. Empowers the trustees out of any surplus income to lay out in erecting or building parsonage-houses and outbuildings any sum not exceeding £700 on the buildings of any one benefice.
8. The trustees may purchase and hold advowsons notwithstanding statutes of Mortmain.
- 9 and 10. Are formal provisions, saving rights, &c.
- 11 and 12. As to expenses, &c.

The number of advowsons purchased is about thirty, and their aggregate yearly value upwards of £5,000. They vary in amount from £665 to £88 per annum; nine of them are above £200 a year, four above £150, five above £100, and the remainder below that amount. The sum set apart for purchase-money, endowment, &c., has been £46,546 9s. 7d.

In 1839, the trustees applied for and obtained further powers, and an act was passed (2 Vict. cap. 17), entitled "An act to enable the trustees of the estates devised by William Hulme Esq. to appropriate certain parts of the accumulated fund arising from the said estates towards the endowment of benefices, the building of

churches, and for other purposes." After reciting that the trustees had, by virtue of the power given to them by the last-recited act, purchased several advowsons on the terms therein specified; that they had not yet been able to provide residence and accommodation for the exhibitioners as contemplated in the act obtained in the 54 George III.; that at the meeting of the trustees held in Manchester February 1, 1839, it appeared from the accounts submitted that the gross annual income arising from such parts of the said trust estates as consisted of land and real estate amounted on the 23rd June 1838 to the sum of £4,376 19s. 1d., and that the accumulated fund which had from time to time arisen from the surplus rents and a cash-balance in hand had amounted in value to £28,005 17s. 4d., and that the dividends and interest annually accruing from such funds and securities produced the sum of £922 17s. 4d.; making together an annual aggregate income of £5,299 16s. 5d.;

It was enacted —

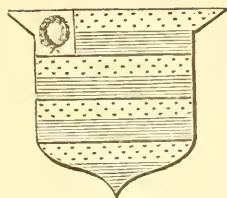
1. To repeal so much of the statute 6 and 7 George IV. as directed the accumulated fund to be kept up to £20,000; and in lieu thereof provides that the accumulated fund should not be less than £5,000, nor without the consent in writing of three-fourths of the trustees not less than £10,000.
2. Empowers the trustees to endow or augment the endowment of any benefice purchased by them; so as such endowment or augmentation did not exceed in any one case £7,000. This clause introduces the restriction "That the trustees shall be members of the United Church of England and Ireland."
3. Empowers the trustees to expend such sums as they should think fit in building, endowing and (providing a fund for) repairing churches or chapels under the Church Building Acts, provided that the sum expended in building or endowing any church or chapel should not exceed £7,000; and no fund for repairs to exceed £350.

4. Rights of patronage to be exercised by the trustees for the purposes of the trust within five months after the vacancy of any living.
5. If no proper person be presented by the trustees within five months after a vacancy, that presentation to lapse to the Bishop of Chester.
6. Empowers the trustees to purchase or build parsonage-houses and to purchase glebes to be attached thereto, not appropriating in any one case more than £700.
7. Alters the day of each annual general meeting of the trustees to the first Monday after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel.
8. Gives to the trustees, as patrons, all the rights which the patron of any the like ecclesiastical benefices possesses.
- 9, 10, 11, 12. Are formal provisions for defraying expenses of act; saving rights, &c.¹

This is the latest statement given by the trustees to the public.

Hulme Hall is situated in the south-western corner of the township. It has been rebuilt of late years, and is now converted into a farm-house. Together with the demesne it seems to have received its designation of Hulme from the name of its owners and occupiers. In 1578 the tithes of "Hulme near Stopforde," and in 1635 of "Hulme near Stockport" were specially recorded as being conveyed to the Collegiate and Parish Church of Manchester as well as those of Reddish generally. The more modern name of the house is Broadstone Hall, by which designation, however, it was known as early as 1637.

¹ Report from the Select Committee on Manchester and Salford Education, vol. i. Appendix, pp. 477-481. See also "Some Account of the Educational Charity founded by William Hulme," by Alexander Kay, Manchester, 1855.



Hulme of Reddish.

Lawrence Hulme of Manchester, third son of Robert Hulme of Hulme juxta Stockport, co. Lanc., 9 Hen. V. = Margaret, dau. and heiress of William Baldre of Manchester.

Geoffrey Hulme of Manchester, 6 Edw. IV. = Cecelie, dau. of William Hulton of Farnworth.

Ralph Hulme of Manchester, 19 Edw. IV. = Elizabeth, dau. of Richard Bexwick of Manchester.

Stephen Hulme, 15 Hen. VIII. = Alice, dau. and coheir of Robert Labrey.

Robert Hulme, died 29 Dec. 27 Eliz. = Anne, dau. of Robert Holt of Ashworth.

Ralph Hulme, purchased certain lands with a capital messuage in Hulme, co. Lanc.; died 3 June 21 Jas. I. = Thomasine, dau. and heiress to John Marler; mar. at Manchester Dec. 22, 1593.

John Hulme, bapt. at Coll. Ch. July 28, 1599; died s.p.; named in his brothers will.

William Hulme = Christian, dau. of Richard Banaster of Oakenbottom, co. Lanc.; mar. lie. dat. May 1, 1630; bur. at Prestwich Sept. 14, 1633.

Mary Hulme, bur. at Prestwich May 21, 1618.

Jane Hulme, liv. Dec. 25, 1627, the date of her mother's will.

Katharine Hulme, bapt. at Prestwich Dec. 9, 1632; bur. there April 5, 1634.

William Hulme of Hulme, = Elizabeth, dau. of Ralph Robinson et. 33 Sept. 10, 1664; died Oct. 29, 1691. of Kersley, co. Lanc.; mar. at Prestwich Aug. 2, 1653; bur. at Coll. Ch. July 5, 1700.

Banaster Hulme, et. 6, Sept. 10, 1664; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 11, 1673.

For several generations a family of some position named Stanley was resident in the township.

By an undated deed, Thomas le Hermyte de Stokeporte and Margaret, daughter of Robert de Standleye, convey one messuage and lands in Denton, certain lands in Redich called Egeeroft, and other specified lands. The name of the individual to whom the conveyance is made is not given in the abstract.

This Robert de Standleye may possibly have been ancestor to a family of that name residing in Reddish at a later period, in the reign of Elizabeth. From certain depositions taken at Chester in 1603, it appears that William Standley of Reddish in Manchester

parish did, by his last will, after payment of certain legacies, give all the rest of his goods unto Margaret his wife, whom he appointed sole executrix. Attached to these depositions is a letter to Chancellor Yate from Mr. Richardson, Dean of Manchester, stating that Margaret Standleye aforesaid is so impotent and aged that she was not able to traivale to Warrington much lesse to Chester. Their actual place of residence was Woodhall in Reddish, in the south-east corner of the township, overlooking the river Tame, about one mile north of Stockport. They were probably tenants of the Reddish family, and not absolute owners of the estate. Woodhall was held in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) by one William Nicholson under a lease from Richard Holland of Denton Esq., who had married the widow of John Reddish Esq. In that year Nicholson as lessee entered an action in the Duchy Court of Lancaster against Alexander Reddish Esq., eldest son and heir of the aforesaid John Reddish. The premises in dispute were "a messuage called The Woodhall and the lands and appurtenances therewith held," situated in Reddish.

Connected with the foregoing, though in what degree of affinity does not appear, was Edward Stanley gent., resident at Woodhall in Reddish in the reign of Charles I. In 1642 he was present at the siege of Manchester, taking part with the parliamentarians, who then held the town against the Earl of Derby. He was severely wounded in the enterprise, and died without making any formal disposition of his estate. The following nuncupative will, attested by the depositions of witnesses, is derived from the Bishop's Registry at Chester:—Mem. That in or about the monethes of September or October anno Dñi 1642 Edward Stanley of Redditch in the parish of Manchester and county of Lancaster and diocese of Chester gent. deceased, being in perfect health and of good memory, yet being a souldier and to goe upon service, and therefore mindfull of mortality and the casualties of warre, did make and declare his last will in words without writing, in manner and forme followinge, That is to say, Hee did give his estate, goodes and whatsoever he held to his sister Anne Goddard and to his

sister Alice Holme and her children, or to that or the like effect, in p'nce of credible witnesses, and afterwards departed this life.

DEPOSITIONS.

Deposition of wytnesses sworne and exaied upon the last Will and Testam^t nuncupative of Edward Stanley late of Redditch in the p'ishe of Manchester in y^e countie of Lancast^r and diocese of Chest^r gent. deceased, taken the xxth day of August Año Dñi 1646 by Edward Woolmer of flixton in y^e sayd countie of Lancast^r clerke, by vertue of a Coission to him and others directed from y^e Right Worshipfull Edmund Mainwaringe, Doctor of Civill Lawe and Chauncellor of y^e Consistoriall Court att Chest^r, bearinge date y^e xiiijth day of August 1646, as followeth: —

Mary Hullme of Woodhall in Redditch in the p'ishe of Manchester and countie of Lancast^r, of the age of three score and fower yeares or thereabouts, sworne and exaied, sayth, — That she the sayd Mary Hullme did well knowe and had long knowne him the sayd Edward Stanley before his death; he the sayd Edward Stanley and his father lyvinge in one howse togeather wth her and her husband: And this dep'e^{nt} sayth that in or about y^e moneth of September to her best remembrance, when y^e Earle of Derby came against Manchester to beseige y^e towne, he the sayd Edward Stanley havinge a purpose amongst others his neyghbors to goe into Manchester for y^e defence and ayde of the sayd towne, did before he went, beinge in p'fect health and good memorie, in the p'sence of and before this dep'e^{nt} and her husband James Hullme (scythence deceased) freely and of his own meere accord make knowne, declare and publish to this depon^t and her husband, That yf it did please God he were slayne, or did otherwyse dye, his minde and will was and he did then freely and absolutely give all his whole estate in moneyes and goodes and whatsoever he had unto his twoe sist^{rs} Anne Goddart and Alles Hullme and her children. And further this depon^t sayth, That before the sayd Edward Stanley went forth of y^e howse towards Manchester, he told her and her husband of a certaine box w^{ch} he had hid w^{ch} yf they did finde it there was that

in it would doe them goode. And this depon^t both then and after his returne from Manchester and before he dyed moved the sayd Edward Stanley to remember his sister Mary wyfe of Robert Chorleton of Wythington and her children; but he answered this depon^t y^t the sayd Robert Chorleton should never have anythinge of his. And when this depon^t spake to him againe and desired him to be good to his sister Mary and her children he went his way and gave her never a worde, and not longe tyme after dyed. Seythence which tyme this depon^t never heard that the sayd Edward Stanley ever made any other disposition of his goodes and estate.

(Signed)

MARY HULLME + the sayd deponents marke.

Item Theophilus Nicholson of Redditch in the countie of Lancast^r yeoman, of the age of thirtie fowre yeares or thereabouts, sworne and examined sayth y^t Mary Hullme of Redditch afore-sayde did in the p'sence of the sayd Theophilus Nicholson declare that Mr. Edward Stanley late of Redditch deceased had given and disposed his whole estate to his twoe sisters Anne Goddart and Alles Hulme and her children, and that James Hullme husband to the sayd Mary, being then and there by, did affirme and aver the same.

(Signed)

THEOPHILUS NICHOLSON.

The name of another member of this family, William Stanley of Woodhall gent., whose sympathies appear to have been on the side of the royalists, occurs in the list of those in 1646 compounding for their estates; this he did by the payment of £46 13s.

TOWNSHIP OF LEVENSHULME.

Levenshulme is a township in Manchester parish, lying three miles south-east of Manchester. It is bounded on the north by Gorton and Rusholme, on the south by Burnage and Heaton Norris, on the east by Reddish, and on the west by Rusholme. The orthography of the name has varied at different periods, being written Lywensholme, Lewonshulme, Lerwoneshulme, Lamsholme, Leysholme, Lensholme, Lentsholme, Lavonsholme, Levensholme, Leyvenshulme, Leinshulme, &c. From the sign of the possessive case, the first syllable would seem to indicate the name of the first colonist or early proprietor, whilst the suffix "holme" or "hulme" signifies in the Anglo-Saxon a flat area by the side of a stream or river, occasionally submerged by floods; or the name "Leven" may be derived (for in the etymology of words much is left to conjecture) from a brook intersecting the township, which may at one time have received the name "Leven," as did certain rivers in Cumberland, Dumbarton, Fife, &c., signifying in the Celtic "smooth." It is worthy of remark that of the four townships within Manchester parish terminating in "holme," three abut upon each other; thus Kirkmanshulme borders on Rusholme, and Rusholme on Levenshulme.

The annals of this township are of the scantiest and most meagre description, no family of note having at any time resided there; scattered farm-houses and a few isolated cottages bordering upon the old Stockport lane (for road it could not then be called) constituting the entire township.

In the Survey of Manchester in 1322 we find the tenants of Lywensholme referred to the Lower Bailiwick of Manchester, and paying their proportion to the maintenance of the bailiffs and under-bailiffs of the manor.

The earliest landed proprietors in the township of whom any record now remains were the family of Legh of Baguley in the county of Chester, who were chief if not exclusive lords of the soil.

Sir John Legh of Baguley Knt., son and heir of Edmund Legh Esq. and Margery his wife, married Ellen, daughter of Sir William Booth of Dunham Massey in the 6 Edward IV. (1466). Besides lawful issue he had an illegitimate son, John Legh, living in the 21 Henry VII. (1505), on whom he settled a tenement in Levenshulme as an annuity for his life.¹

In the 19 Elizabeth (1576) Margaret Vaudrey, claiming by conveyance from Edward Legh, enters an action at Lancaster against Robert Shelmerdyne, John Smythe, Henry Tymperley, James Bowker and others as lessees of William Radcliffe, the matter in dispute being certain messuages and lands in Levenshulme. From this it may be inferred that the Radcliffe family, though what branch does not appear, possessed also at this time an interest in the township. Two years later another suit was commenced by the same plaintiff against Henry Brome, Thomas Holme, John Glossoppe, James Shelmerdyne and others in relation to similar premises in Levenshulme. From the pedigree of Legh it appears that Margaret Vaudrey, daughter of Robert Vaudrey of Riddings in Timperly gent., became the second wife of Edward Legh of Baguley Esq., who died in 1607. This, however, could scarcely be the plaintiff in the above-mentioned suits, since in 1584, in a subsequent action, she is associated with one John Coppocke, and three years later in certain legal proceedings before the same court she is styled Margaret Coppocke, otherwise Vaudrey, implying that a marriage had taken place between herself and Coppocke. She would doubtless be of the same family as the wife of Edward Legh, if not actually his wife.

Other lands in the township form in part the endowment of Gorton Episcopal Chapel. These were purchased in 1734 by subscription of the inhabitants of Gorton, aided by a grant from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. This estate also belonged originally to the family of Legh, but was conveyed in 1620 by Richard Legh of Baguley Esq. and Henry, his eldest son and heir to John Thorpe of Levenshulme; from his grandson it passed to

¹ Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, vol. i. p. 416.

Obadiah Hulme of Reddish, chapman, whose son Samuel Hulme disposed of it to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the purpose already indicated.

About the middle of the seventeenth century the Manchester family of Gilliam appears among the landed proprietors in the township. John Gilliam gent., who is described as of Levenshulme, was son and heir of John Gilliam of the same place Esq. (a captain in the parliamentary interest and justice of the peace). He was baptised at Littleborough July 2, 1658, and married Jane, daughter of Thomas Percival of Royton gent. By will dated June 18, 1688, and proved at Chester October 26 in the same year, he left many legacies for charitable purposes, and settled his very large estates in Newton, Droylsden, Failsworth, Fallowfield, Horsedg, Oldham, Crompton, Heaton Norris, Levenshulm otherwise Leyvenshulme otherwise Leynshulme, Westleigh, Hindley, Woodhouses in the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne, Barton-upon-Irwell, Reddivall and Pinnington on his only child Jane Gilliam, who subsequently married John Greaves of Culeth Esq. High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1733.¹ Mr. Gilliam of Levenshulme was in the number of those gentlemen summoned in 1664 by Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, to register their descents and to justify their titles to such coats of arms and crests as they usually bear.

The earliest Population Returns for Levenshulme are in 1774, in which year there were 55 houses tenanted by 56 families or 280 individuals, of whom one hundred and five were under the age of 15; thirty-six above 50; seven above 60; and six above 70.

In 1801 the inhabitants numbered 628; in 1811, 674; in 1821, 768; in 1831, 1,086; in 1841, 1,231; and in 1851, 1,902.

In 1655 there were 25 persons in the township rated to the relief of the poor, and the amount of rate collected for the six months ending November 25 was £7. Amongst the ratepayers were Thurstan Peake; John Hobson, draper; John Hobson, swaler [corn-miller]; Alexander and Ralph Bowerhouse; John Glossop,

¹ *Notitia Cestriensis*, vol. ii. part i. pp. 91, 92.

and John Shelmerdine. In 1847 the same rates amounted to £422 6s. 11d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in Levenshulme, as assessed to the land-tax, was £154; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,340; in 1829, £3,316; in 1841, £6,056; and in 1853, £7,342.

The superficial area of the township, as given in 1831 by Mr. Rickman, is 1,050 acres; in the Census Returns of 1851 it is reduced to 605 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son's Survey in 1818 estimates it at 602 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 602 acres. In 1835 the number of county voters in Levenshulme was 32. In 1844 the landowners in the township numbered forty-nine; of these the principal were —

	A.	R.	P.
Grimshaw, Samuel	59	3	27
Greaves, John	51	0	22
Walker, John Goldie	43	0	28
Glendinning, Alexander	36	1	29
Heywood, Miss	31	1	18
Coston, Thomas	30	1	4
Bostock, John, Trustees of.....	28	3	17
Hobson, John	26	1	0
Gorton Chapel, Incumbent of.....	26	0	36
Worsley, Thomas Carill	25	1	27
Todd, Rev. Thomas.....	15	3	35
Manchester and Birmingham Rail- way Company	8	0	23

Assuming the total area of the township to be 602 acres it was thus divided: — Arable land, 16 acres; meadow and pasture land, 576 acres; buildings, 10 acres. A branch of the London and North Western Railway passes through the township.

Ecclesiastically considered, Levenshulme is situated in the parish of Manchester, and has from the earliest times owned its relationship by the payment of tithe.

Though here included as a part of the ancient chapelry of Didsbury, no better reason can be assigned for such classification than

its annexation to Heaton Norris on the severance of that township from Didsbury chapel in 1765, at which time Heaton Norris, separated from Didsbury and united to Reddish and Levenshulme, was constituted a distinct ecclesiastical district under the then recently-erected chapel of St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris. In the charters of the Collegiate Church mention is made in 1556 of the tithes of "Leysholme," in 1578 of "Lensholme," and in 1635 of "Lentsholme." In the 9 of Elizabeth (1566) Alexander Barlow Esq., as farmer or tenant to the Guardian (Warden) and Chaplains of the College of Manchester, sues Thomas Herle, Guardian of the said college, for some breach of contract in relation to the tithes of Levensholme and other hamlets within the parish of Manchester. A later lessee was Laurence Crowther, who in 1678 sued William Bradshaw of Blackley and William Bayley of Levensholme, in the Ecclesiastical Court of Chester for "subtraction or detention of tythes or other ecclesiastical rights" to him appertaining as "farmer or lawful possessor of the tithes belonging to the rectory or parish church of Manchester." Their offence had this further feature of aggravation, that they had also "contemned and disobeyed the process and proceedings of the said court of this diocese by not appearing at days and times appointed, being thereunto lawfully cited." In 1701 the tithes of the township were leased to Jo. Coppock for £7 per annum. In 1848 the rent-charge in lieu of tithes over the same area payable to the Dean and Canons of Manchester was £60.

In December 1853 efforts were made to procure a subdivision of the now over-populated ecclesiastical district of St. Thomas's, Heaton Norris, by separating Levenshulme, and constituting it a distinct and independent district. To this end a subscription was entered into for the purpose of erecting a school-room in the township, intended as the nucleus of a future church. A site was given by Charles Carill Worsley Esq. of Platt, and the structure was completed at a cost of £1,200; a residence for the master is also included in the design. The school is sufficiently large to accommodate 400 children. Towards its erection the National

Society and the Committee of Council on Education have contributed to the extent of £494. Mr. Worsley has also given a site for a church and parsonage-house, both already conveyed; and it is expected the building of a church will shortly be commenced.

The Wesleyans have a small chapel in the village.

There is also a Roman Catholic Chapel in Levenshulme, and a house lately given by Mr. Grimshaw of Buxton to a sisterhood of that communion. Attached to the mission is a house for the use of the priest.

A school and school-house formerly stood on a piece of waste ground in this township, upon which there was the following inscription:—“This school was erected and endowed by Thomas Fletcher, Mary Dickinson, John Siddall and other charitable benefactors A.D. 1754;” but the Charity Commissioners in their enquiry in 1826 could not discover that there were ever any documents in the township relating to this school, or that there was ever any permanent income appropriated to its support; a sum of £5 a year formerly paid to the master by Mr. Collier, a Quaker, then living at Stockport, but who was then dead, being believed by them to have been a voluntary payment.

At a vestry meeting of the township held September 29, 1823, it was resolved that a contract should be made with the Commissioners of the Manchester and Buxton turnpike road for the sale of the above-mentioned school and school-house, by Messrs. John Gray, Thomas Bibby and John Walker, who were thereby empowered to treat with the said commissioners, and with the advice of select vestry to purchase a piece of land in fee-simple and to erect thereon a convenient school and school-house, and other requisite buildings on the most economical plan, and that the same should be vested in trustees to be thereafter named. On the 21st of October 1823, the three persons above-named reported that they had sold the old school for £150, and it was resolved that Thomas Bibby and John Haughton should superintend the taking down the school and depositing the materials in proper places. On the 30th of October 1823, it was resolved that the new school and

school-houses should be erected by subscription, in addition to the present fund, and that trustees should be elected by subscribers of £2 each.

The sum of £150, for which the premises were sold, was received by Mr. John Gray. A misunderstanding afterwards arose between him and the two other persons above-mentioned, with respect to the building a new school-house, under the following circumstances : A piece of land containing 396 square yards was given by James Wilde Esq. for the purpose of building a school thereon, and was conveyed for a nominal consideration to Messrs. Gray, Walker and Bibby, in fee-simple, by indentures of lease and release dated 26th and 27th of March 1824 ; the trusts upon which the land was given are not, however, expressed in the conveyance. Upon these premises Mr. Gray was anxious that a school should be built, the expenses of which were estimated at £340. Early in the year 1825 Mr. John Haughton, a builder in Levenshulme, purchased of his own accord a piece of ground containing about 500 square yards, subject to a rent of one penny a square yard, and built a school and house thereon, at his own expense, with the assistance of such of the materials of the old school as were capable of being used for the purpose ; and having incurred this expense he became desirous that the inhabitants of the township should purchase this land and the buildings erected thereon at the price which they respectively cost him. There was some dispute as to the sum for which Mr. Haughton should give credit, in respect of the materials of the old school used by him as above-mentioned, and which were originally valued at £50 ; but the principal subject of dispute was whether the premises on which Mr. Haughton has built should be purchased, or whether a new school should be built on the land given by Mr. Wilde. Mr. Gray insisted upon the adoption of the latter against the opinion of the two other persons appointed by the township to act with him, they being anxious to purchase the premises of Mr. Haughton, and to give back to Mr. Wilde the land conveyed to trustees by him as above-mentioned.

In consequence of these disputes, Mr. Briddon was appointed

treasurer at a vestry meeting held August 11, 1824, but Mr. Gray has refused to pay over to him the money deposited in his hands, stating that he was ready to lay it out in building a school according to the original intentions of the vestry held in 1823, and the money was placed in Mr. Gray's name in the bank of Messrs. Jones Loyd and Co.

It appeared to the Charity Commissioners during their inquiry that as the inhabitants of the township were the proper judges of the mode in which the money should be laid out for the purpose of building a school in lieu of that which was erected in 1754, and as Mr. Gray had engaged to pay over the money in his hands in such manner as he should be advised by the Commissioners, it was expedient that a town's meeting should be held for the purpose of determining in what manner the money should be laid out, which accordingly was done; and at a meeting held March 1, 1826, it was resolved —

I. That the resolution passed at a public town's meeting held August 11, 1824, appointing Mr. Abram Briddon, treasurer of the Levenshulme school-fund, should be confirmed.

II. That a public town's meeting should be held on the 13th of March, to take into consideration the state of the Levenshulme school-fund.

This meeting also was held, six persons being present, of whom Mr. John Haughton was one, and it appearing that Mr. John Gray not having paid over to Mr. Abram Briddon, the treasurer of the Levenshulme school-fund, the money in his hands, a representation to that effect was made to the Commissioners, who, thinking that the question recommended to the consideration of the town's meeting had not been brought under discussion, recommended that it should be considered at another meeting.¹

The later proceedings in this disputed case are not known in detail, the book being lost in which were recorded the decision of the inhabitants in vestry assembled. Mr. Haughton's offer was not, however, accepted by the trustees, who erected instead a suitable

¹ Charity Commission Reports, vol. 16, pp. 199-200.

building on the site given by Mr. Wilde. Some years afterwards a Mechanics' Institution was commenced in the township, and the promoters availed themselves of this building as the place for their meeting as well as for the general purposes of the institution ; but being found, in process of time, inconveniently small, a new structure was determined on, and it was resolved to incorporate with the new institution the existing schools. Accordingly in the year 1854 the building was commenced, which is already completed, and bears the name "Levenshulme Mechanics' Institution and Schools." The school-building thus deserted is now claimed by the Wesleyans, whose only plea is the permission, of late years accorded to them by the township, of using the school as a chapel on Sundays, and out of school hours during the remainder of the week. The intervention of the Charity Commissioners has been again sought, and the matter is now under consideration.



Drawn & Engraved by James Frostman

Whorlton Chapel,

TAKEN DOWN IN 1779.

Engraved & Coloured by J. Smith

CHORLTON CHAPEL

A HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT CHAPEL OF CHORLTON.



HORLTON township lies four miles south-west of Manchester, and is bounded on the north by Stretford; on the south by the river Mersey, which there divides the counties of Lancaster and Chester; on the east by Withington and Didsbury; and on the west by Stretford and the river Mersey. The name was anciently written, as chance seemed to direct, Charlton, Charleton, Cherlton, Chereleton, Chorleton, Chourlton, Chourton, Chowerton, Chowreton, Chorllerton, Chollerton, Cholreton, Chowlerton, &c. Whitaker derives it from *Cheorl*, a Saxon appellative, and *tun* a town or township.

There are two hamlets in Manchester parish bearing this designation, the one known as Chorlton-row or roe, i.e. the Chorlton adjoining the old Roman row or road to Buxton, called also Chorlton-upon-Medlock as being situated on the river of that name,¹ and the other, the township of which it is now proposed to treat,

¹ Of the signification of the name *Medlock*, Whitaker thus writes: *Med* or *Mat*, and *Lug* or *Loc*, equally signify water: and, in composition, imply a quantity of it, either a river or a lake. The former constitutes half the name of the famous Med-way and the latter forms the whole of it in the Loxa of Scotland and the Logia of Ireland, the Lug of Herefordshire, the Lucus of Liguria in ancient Italy, the Locke of Somersetshire, and the great variety of Lochs in Ireland and Scotland. — Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. i. p. 290, second edition.

found associated at the present day with the adjacent small hamlet of Hardy, under the distinguishing name of Chorlton-cum-Hardy. In the name of its adjunct, Hardy, we have a record transmitted of the primitive features of Manchester and its neighbourhood when encompassed by an all but impenetrable forest. Speaking of the less-extended forest in the centre of which the British Mancenion and the Roman-British Mancunium stood, Whitaker adds, "The south side [of the parish] peculiarly retained the name of Arden [or great wood] for ages, as I have previously shown; and was latterly broken into the thickets that gave denomination to Openshaw, Blackbrook and Blackstakes, into Ashton-hurst and Heaton-wood, and the large grove that winded along the bank of the Mersey, and imparted the name of Hard-ey or Hardy to a range of meadows upon it."¹

Chorlton was included in the lower bailiwick of the barony of Manchester, and its tenants were required to contribute to the maintenance of the lord's bailiff or sergeant and that of a boy, a horse and four under-bailiffs, supplying to the chief sergeant, when he shall come there, bread, ale, victuals and other things necessary, according to the season; and for his boy and the four under-bailiffs such food as they are accustomed to provide in the house, and provender for his horse, on notice of their coming.

The boundary-line enclosing the manor of Manchester passed "between Stretford and Chollerton (which is a member of Withington) as far as Molsfrellach; and following that as far as into Withenton clou, and from thence going between Withenton clou and Trafford as far as the bounds of Chorlton, and following that between Chorlton and Trafford into le Cornbrook."

In the 15 Edward III. (1341) a commission was issued granting powers to certain individuals named therein to levy a ninth of corn, wool and lambs in every parish according to the value upon which churches were taxed (Pope Nicholas's Valor and Taxatio) if the value of the ninth amounted to as much as the tax, and to levy more where the true value of the ninth should be found to

¹ Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 111, second edition.

exceed the tax. To gain correct information of these facts they were directed to take inquisitions upon oath of the residents in every parish. This commission originated "in regard to the will which the king their liege lord hath towards his subjects, and to the great travailes that he hath made and sustained as well in his wars of Scotland as against the parts of France and other places, and to the good-will which he hath to travail to keep his realm and maintain his wars and to purchase his rights. Having regard to this they have granted to him the ninth lamb, the ninth fleece and the ninth sheaf; and of cities and boroughs the ninth part of all their goods and chattels." The commission met at Preston, and the amount decreed to be paid by Chorlton was ten shillings. The only other townships named in Manchester parish are Salford-cum-Burghstoun (Broughton) lijs, Chetham xs, Hulm near Manchester xs, Stretford xlvjs viij^d, Redyche lijs iiij^d; exhibiting their relative importance at that early period. The total tax upon Manchester was xxij marks (£14 13s. 4d.)¹

The earliest of the landed proprietors in Chorlton of whom any notice now remains was the family which hence derives its name. In the 12 Stephen (1148) Gospatric de Chorlton granted lands in Chorlton and Beswick to the Abbey of Cokersand.² About a century later we find the Abbot of Cokersand claiming in Cherlton and Wythington the privilege of waifs, infangenthef and the assize of bread and ale, which was resisted by the officers of the crown, and on being cited to substantiate his claim the evidence adduced in its support being insufficient to satisfy the inquisitors, they pronounced against him.³

By a deed undated but probably executed some time before 1290, Gospatric de Choreton gives to his brother Adam, "who is about to fight for me against William son of Wulfrith de Withinton to secure my right to my estate in Chorlton" (ad salvand^u jus meū de Choreton), one eighth part of Chorlton. This deed is witnessed by Robert de Burom, Henry de Chetham, Ralph

¹ Nonarum Inquisitiones.

² Kuerden's MSS. in the College of Arms.

³ *Placita de Quo Warranto Rolls*, fol. 379.

de Moston, Jordan le Norreys, Henry de Trafford, &c. In the original, of which this is an abstract included in the *Harl. MSS.* (cod. 2112, fo. 165), the bounds of the land so conveyed are specified.

In the reign of Edward I. Gospatric de Chereleton held two carucates of land in Cherleton as tenant in chief of the king, in thanage, a service dating from Saxon times, and by the payment of twenty shillings.¹ Henry de Chetham held also in the same reign four bovates of land direct from the king by the same service and the payment of five shillings.² Matthew, son of William, is also named as a tenant holding four bovates of the king by knight's service. He claimed as having performed the stipulated service in the war then brought to a close.³ William de Bothelton also held one bovat from the king, his heir being in the king's custody.⁴ Adam de Chorleton also held from the aforesaid Gospatric two bovates by the payment of forty-one pence.⁵ In the Survey of the manor of Manchester, taken 15 Edward II. (1322), it is stated that Thomas de Chorlton has seven acres of heath-land in Green Lowe Marsh in Gorton by a certain assize of novel disseisin, but it may be leased as part of the land of the tenants. In the same return the said Thomas is represented as holding a cottage in Ardwick without rent on account of its being promised to be leased.

Scarcely inferior in antiquity of tenure were the Traffords of Trafford.

Henry de Trafford held five bovates of land in the township in the reign of Edward I. by the payment of six shillings and three-pence;⁶ and an undated deed of perhaps a yet earlier period records

¹ Gospatric de Chereleton tenz ij caruc' in Cherleton in capite de d'no Rege in thanag' p' xx sol'. — *Testa de Nevill*, fol. 405.

² Henr. de Chetham tenz iij bovat' in capite de d'no Rege in thenagio p' v sol'. — *Ibid.*

³ Math's fil. Will'i tenet de eodem iij^{or} bovat' quas disr'onavit p' finē Belli. — *Ibid.*

⁴ Will's de Bothelton tenuit unam bovat' in capite de d'no Rege in feodi firma heres ej⁹ est in custodia d'ni Reg'. — *Ibid.*

⁵ Adam de Chorleton tenet de ip'o Gospatric ij bovat' p' xlj den'. — *Ibid.*

⁶ *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fol. 137.

a grant from Gospatric de Cherletona to Henry, son of Robert, son of Ralph de Trafford, of one fourth part of Chorlton, namely four bovates of land with appurtenances; to wit two bovates which Ranulph held, one bovat which Steinulph held, and one bovat which Robert, son of Edwin held, with all woods, plains, pastures, clearings, mills, &c., and all liberties and easements to that township belonging: to hold the same to himself and his heirs from him, the said Gospatric and his heirs on payment of five shillings per annum, namely fifteen pence at the Nativity, fifteen pence at Easter, fifteen pence at the feast of John the Baptist, and fifteen pence at the feast of St. Michael. This deed is witnessed by Roger de Burun, Orm de Astun, Robert de Burun, Matthew de Redish, William de Radcliffe, Roger de Middleton, Adam de Buri, Gilbert de Notona, William his son, Geoffrey de Burun, Hugh de Stretford, Alexander de Pilkinton, Matthew de Glothet, Hugh de Soresworth and Robert his brother, Robert, son of Hugh de Masey, &c.¹

The name of Henry de Trafford occurs also in the rent-roll of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, dated 10 Edward II. (1316),² as the Earl's tenant for lands within the township, paying annually a rent of five shillings. Other tenants within the township were Richard Pilkinton, who paid to the Earl twenty shillings, and

¹ Sciant omēs &c. q^d ego Gospat^reus de Chereltona dedi &c. Henr. filio Rob. filii Rad. de T^rford p^r homagio & servieio suo totam quartam partem de Chereltona, seil. quatuor bovatas t^re eū o^rib^z p^rtin, duas seil. q^rs Ranulf tenuit & unā bovatom q^m Steinnulf tenuit & unā bovatom q^m Rob. fil. Edwini tenuit, in bosco & plano in pas. & pascuis & in assartis in molendinis & in o^rib^z lib^rat^rib^z & aisiamētis ad eūdem villam spectantib^z illi & hēdib^z suis tenendas de me et de meis heredib^z; annuatim inde reddendo qⁿq^r solidos argenti seil. xv denar^r ad nat. dⁿi & xv denar^r ad paschā & xv denar^r ad fest beat. Joh^s baptiste & xv denar^r ad fest s^ci Michael. Iliis testib^z Rogō de Buron; Orm de Astun; Rob. burun; Math^o de Redich; Will. de Radecl.; Rogō de Middilton; Ada. de Buri; Gileb. de Notona; Will^{mo} fil. suo; Galfr. de Burun; hug. de Stretford; Alex. de Pilkinton; Math^o de Glothet; hug. de Soresworth; Rob^{to} frē suo; Rob. fil. hugⁱ de Masci & multis aliis.—*Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.*, vol. xxv. p. 89. Seal—white paste, bearing a fleur-de-lis: legend—"Sig..... De Chorltvn."

² *Harl. MSS.* 2085, fol. 528.

Richard de Byrom, whose lands were assessed at twenty-four shillings.

From the rental of Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, dated May 1, 1473, it appears that Henry Trafford, son and heir of Thomas Trafford, holds divers messuages with appurtenances in Chorleton of the said lord in soccage, and grinds his corn at the mill of Manchester, and pays a yearly rent of six shillings. Bartrin Trafford holds the other half of the two aforesaid messuages of the said lord by the same service, and grinds his corn at the said mill, and pays a yearly rent of three shillings and fourpence. The same Henry Trafford holds a close called Gatecote-fields of the said lord by the same service, and pays a yearly rent of two shillings. In the 5 Henry VIII. (1513) Edmund Trafford, as appears from an inquisition p.m. of that date, died seised of lands in the township. Other inquisitions carry us down to the close of the century, Sir Edmund Trafford 21 Henry VIII (1529), Sir Edmund Trafford 6 Elizabeth (1563) and Sir Edmund Trafford 32 Elizabeth (1589), all of whom retained their landed interest in Chorlton.

In the 16 Henry VIII. (1524) Edmund Trafford and others were prosecuted in the Duchy Court by Margaret Bexwik widow, in relation to a disputed title to houses and biggings [buildings], lands, woods and appurtenances in Chorleton manor.

In the 33 Henry VIII. (1541) Margaret Trafford, widow of Sir Edmund Trafford, enters an action in the same court against Ralph Trafford and others for assault and forcible entry on a house called "The Garrett" at Manchester and a mill at Chorleton.

In the 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1554-5) the same premises form the subject of litigation in a suit between Gilbert Gerard, Thomas Leighe and Isabel his wife plaintiffs, and Sir Edmund Trafford Knt., Henry Trafford clerk and others defendants; the lands, &c. in Chorlton are described as the Myllfeld close.

In the 9 Elizabeth (1566) Edmund Trafford and Nicholas Langford submit to arbitration their respectively asserted claims to the wastes of Didesbery, Withington and Chorleton. Seven

years later, in 1573, Edmund Trafford is defendant in a suit instituted against him by Thomas Leigh touching a certain messuage and lands near Buttlers Lane and Trafforde Mosse in Chorlton manor.

The Traffords were possessed of large landed estates in Chorlton-on-Medlock also, as well as in Chorlton-cum-Hardy; and, as in the last-recited deeds the name given is simply Chorlton, the allusion may possibly be to the former hamlet. This indeed seems probable, especially in the deed which recites the claim of suit urged by Thomas West, Lord De la Warre, in respect of his corn-mill in Manchester, since we find from an earlier deed that the Chorlton-cum-Hardy tenants were under a similar obligation to grind at their lord's mill at Didsbury. The deed in question is undated, but was executed about the year 1280; it is endorsed, "Tenants of Chollerton owe a rent to Didsbury Milne," and is to the following effect: Sir Simon de Gousul, knight, releases &c. to Henry de Trafford his heirs and assigns the homage of the said Henry and his heirs, together with the several annual rents which the said Henry owes for all the lands he holds of him in divers places within the fee of Withington. He releases, moreover, and quitclaims to the said Henry &c. the suit payable by his Chorlton tenants, in respect of his (Sir Simon's) mill at Didsbury, all services, exactions &c., of what nature soever, to which the said Henry might be liable,—the said Henry rendering homage therefor to the chief lord of Manchester, and paying to him yearly at the feast of St. Michael one pair of gloves and one penny.¹

¹ O'ibꝫ Xpi &c. Symon de Gousul miles salutem in d'no. Noveritis me remisisse &c. Henrico de Trafford et hēdꝫ suis & ass' homag' d'cti Henr. & hered' suor' una eum totū redditū q^m idem Henric. michi. reddē debet & assuet' annuat' p' o'ibꝫ terris & tenem suis q' de me tenuit in locis diversis in feodo de Withinton. Remisi insuper & omnino quiete clam' eidem Hen'co &c. sectam molendini mei in Didisbury de om'ibꝫ hominibꝫ suis de Chollerton & emendacon reparacon & facturam stang^m p'd'ei molendini & omnimodo servicia exaccōnes &c. nōiatas & non nōiatas in quibꝫ d'ct' Henr. &c.; faciendo in homagiū d'no capitali Mancestr' et redd' ei ann' ad fest S. Mich. unū par chyrocer' et unū denar' p' o'bꝫ serv' &c. Hīs testibꝫ D'no Galfr'o de Bracebrigg milit; Galfr. de Chaderton: Ric'o de Radeclive; Ric'o de Moston:

Another of the more ancient proprietors was Elias Entwissell of Entwissell manor near Bolton, who, as appears from the rental of Thomas Lord De la Warre, held in 1473 one messuage with appurtenances, in Chorleton, of the said lord in soccage and by a yearly rent of three shillings and fourpence. Edmund Entwissell who died 36 Henry VIII. (1544) was seised at his death of the messuage, &c. in question, which, at a later period (1576), was litigated by Edward Tildesley and Alexander Entwysell.

Other land-owners were Edward Tildesley Esq., only son of Thurstan Tildesley of Tildesley Esq. by his second wife Jane, daughter of Ralph Langton, Baron of Newton, whose inquisition p. m. is dated 29 Elizabeth (1586),—and Gregoric Lovell, described as cofferer to the queen's household, who in the 36 Elizabeth (1593) claimed by conveyance from Sir Edmund Trafford messuages and lands on Chowerton moor. In the 41 Elizabeth (1598) Sir Robert Lovell Knight, eldest son of the above-mentioned Gregorie, claiming by inheritance, maintains his right to certain lands, &c., in the township against John Trafford, Roger Dudill and others.

In this same year the exclusive right of digging "marle clodds and turves on Chowreton more" was asserted by Nicholas Langeford, who, by an action at Lancaster, sought to protect himself against William Barlowe, James Brownehill, Laurence Baguley, Edmund Hunte and Richard Chorlton, who claimed participation. The manorial rights of Withington (including Chorlton) appear to have passed about this time to the Mosley family.

In the 43 Elizabeth (1600) Rowland Mosley Esq. as "Lord of the Manors of Didsburye and Wythington" prosecutes Alexander Barlow Esq., a "charterer and freeholder," for incroachments on divers parcels of the common and waste grounds called Didsburye moor and Chorlton, otherwise Chollerton moor, a capital messuage called Barlowe Hall and the demesne lands called "The Henbutts."

Rob'to de Shorisworth; Jordano de Crompton et multis aliis. — *Trafford Evidences, Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv. p. 87. Seal—green wax very perfect; legend—"Sigil Joh'is(?) De Gousil."

Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who died in 1614, and Rowland Mosley Esq. his son, who died in 1617, were both seised of lands in Chorlton township.

A portion of the township received the name of Barlow at a very early period, which designation is thought by Whitaker to mark the locality as a favoured haunt of the wild boar at a time when animals of chase overspread the country not yet disafforested. "The wild bull," he says, "had its residence in our Mancunian Arden, and even continued in one part of the thickets of Blackley as late as the fourteenth century; and the boar roving at liberty over the woods of the parish for many centuries after the Roman departure from the station consigned the appellation of *Barlow* or the *Boar-ground* to a district in the south-westerly parts of it."¹

From this neighbourhood a family of considerable note and of long association with the township took its name. Barlow Hall was the residence of Sir Robert de Barlow in the reign of Edward I.

By an undated deed Alexander, son of William Albinus of Sale, grants to Thomas de Barlow all his lands, &c., in Barlow. This deed is witnessed by Geoffrey de Chetham, Richard de Trafford, William de Heton, William de Diddesbury, Richard de Chollerton, and others. By a second deed, also without date, Amicia, daughter of Roger de Barlow, gives to Roger, son of Thomas de Barlow, half a bovate of land in Barlow, the same which her father gave to her at her marriage.

Another deed of a similar date with the last conveys on the part of Alexander, minister (capellanus) of Didsbury, to the above-named Roger de Barlow the elder all his lands in Barlow, Chollerton, Harday in Withington, together with a water-mill there situated, with remainder to Thomas, son of Roger de Barlow and Marion his wife, &c.

In the 10 Edward III. (1336) a cause was decided at York, as it might seem, the deed in which it is recorded issuing from that city, between Roger de Barlow the elder, querent, and Robert de Cattelow chaplain, deforcient, of the manor of Barlow, and of five

¹ Whitaker's *History of Manchester*, vol. ii. p. 115, second edition.

messuages, fifty acres of land, six acres of meadow with their appurtenances in Chollerton, and half the manor of Chollerton, &c. The deed confirms to the said Roger the possession of the lands in question for his life, with remainder to Roger his son and Agnes his son's wife, and to Roger, son of the said Roger and Agnes, and his heirs male, with remainder to Thurstan, brother of the aforesaid Henry [sic], with remainder to Thomas, son of Roger de Barlow the elder, with remainder to the right heirs of the said Roger Barlow the elder.

By a certificate from Lichfield, bearing date 1397, it is evidenced that Thomas de Barlow was sole and exclusive lord of Barlow, and that his father's name was Robert de Barlow; that the said Thomas had two sons, of whom the elder was named Roger and the younger Thomas; that the said Roger became in turn sole lord of Barlow after the decease of his father; and that he had a son by name Roger, who succeeded his father as lord of Barlow.

In the 14 Richard II. (1390) Robert Collayn gave to John, son of Roger de Barlow, for the term of his life all his messuages, lands, &c., in Barlow, Chollerton, &c., with remainder to John, son of John and the heirs of the body of the said John the younger and Joan, daughter of Richard de Holland. This deed is witnessed by John de Radcliffe de Chaderton, Adam de Lever jun., Richard de Redish, James de Barlow. John Barlow the younger was one of the inhabitants of Manchester parish summoned in 1422 by the sound of the bell to assemble for the purpose of expressing their concurrence in the proposal of Thomas De la Warre to found a Collegiate Church in Manchester.¹

A marriage-covenant between Richard de Ashton de Mersey Bank and Nicholas, son of John de Barlow;—Alexander, son and heir of the said Nicholas, to marry Elizabeth, daughter of the said Richard. The covenant is dated 13 Henry VI. (1434). In the 29 Henry VI. (1450) Nicholas, son of John de Barlow, and Alexander his son lease to George Barlow for the term of four years a certain close in Barlow; and in the 6 Edward IV. (1466)

¹ Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, p. 40.

he the said Nicholas conveys to his son Alexander all his lands, &c., in Witlington and elsewhere in Lancashire, formerly belonging to John de Barlow, father of the aforesaid Nicholas.

In the 18 Edward IV. (1478) Alexander, son and heir of Nicholas Barlow, conveys on trust to John Radcliffe of Radcliffe and Thurstan Tildesley Esquires, James Hill, rector of Northenden, and Ralph Ashton, rector of Ashton, his manor of Barlow.¹ His

¹ These several particulars are derived from abstracts of family deeds included in the *Harl. MSS.* 2112, fol. 172-174.

Ex cartis Alexi Barlow de Barlow ari Ap. 1653.

Fol. 172. Ego Alex. f. Wi Albini de Sale dedi Tho. de Barlow tot. t'ram meā &c. in vil. de Barlow &c. Test. Dnō G. de Chetham; Ricō de Trafford; W^o de Heton; W^o Diddesbury; Ricō de Chollerton & al'. s. d.

Ego W^s f. Rob. de Aynsworth dedi Rogō f. Tho. de Barlow 1 bō t'ræ in Aynsworth &c. Test. Galfr. de Chetham; Rob. de Hulton; W^o de Heton; Rob. de Redish; Ricō de Trafford; Hug. de Trafford &c. s. d.

Ego Sybilla f. Uetredi & Marg^{te} dedi Tho. de Barlow & hered' suis tot. t'ram meā in Barlow. Test. Rob. de Burun; Math. Redig.; Jordano Norewe; Hug. de Stretford; W^o de Chollerton. s. d.

Ego Amicia f. Rogi de Barlow dedi Rog. f. Tho. de Barlow dim. bō t'ræ in Barlow &c. q̄ p'r meus dedit mihi in lib. mar. Test. Galfr. de Chetham; Ric. de Trafford; W^o Norhais; Rog. de Pilkinton; Rob. de Astona; Tho. de Prestwich &c. s. d.

Amisia f. Rogi de Barlow q'nd. ux' Ham. de Barlow dedi Tho. de Barlow & hered' suis tot. jus. in Barlow. Test. Dnō Galfr. de Chetham &c. s. d.

Ego Alex. cap^{lus} de Didsbury dedi Rog. de Barlow sen. tot. t'ram meā in Barlow, Chollerton, Harday in vil. de Withinton simul cū molend. aquatic. in ead. vil. rem. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow & Mariori uxī ejus &c. Test. Ricō de Hulton; Ricō de Workeslegh; Rob. de Aston; Tho. de Hulme; Ric. de Valentina & al'. s. d.

Roger Barlow & Mag'r. Ricūs de Trafford rector de Chedle 14 Edw. II.

Rog. f. Rog. de Barlow assignat Alicie q̄ fuit ux' Rogi de Barlow p'ris sui &c. in Barlow, Chollerton & Hardy. Dat. 13 Edw. III.

Rog. de Barlow sen. dedi Dnō Rob. de Cattelow cap^{lo} oīā man. ter. ten. &c. meā in Barlow &c. 7 Edw. III.

Inf. Rog. de Barlow sen. quer. & Rob. de Cattelow cap^m def. de m. de Barlow ac. 5 mess., 50 acr. t'ræ, 6 ā p'ti cū p'tinen. in Chollerton & dim. m. de Chollerton &c.; h'end eid. Rog. &c. pro vita; rem. Rogō f. ejusd. Rogi & Agnet' ux' ejus & Rogō f. eord. Rogi & Agnet' & her. masc. ip'ius Rogi fil. eord. Rogi & Agnet' & hæd. masc.; rem. Thurstano fr'i ejusd. Hener. [sic]; rem. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow sen.; rem. r'cis hered' d'ci Rogi Barlow sen. Dat. ap^d Ebor. 10 Edw. III.

Fol. 173. Rog. de Barlow f. Rogi de Barlow dedi Rogō f. Rob. de Barlow & hæd. tot. jus. in Barlow. Test. Jō de Burun; Rog'o de Midleton; W^o de Hopwood; Ad. de Prestwich & al'. s. d.

son and successor, Roger, lived in the reign of Henry VII. He married a daughter of Ellis Prestwich of Hulme Esq. and dying

Margareta f. Tho. f. Rogi de Barlow remis Rogo de Barlow avunculo meo & hered' suis tot. jus. meū in m̄ de Barlow, Chollerton &c. Test. Rob. de Trafford; Tho. de Hulme &c. 17 Edw. III.

In Dei noīe Amen, 1397. A certificate of Lichfield: Q'dem Tho. de Barlow qui tunc erat integer D'nus de Barlow ejus v^o Tho. pater appellabatur Rob. de Barlow & p'fat Tho. sic existens integer D'n's de Barlow hūit 2 filios quor Rog. erat fil. suus primogenit.; 2^{dus} erat Tho. fil. suus postea natus & sic autem id. Rogūs erat integer D'nus de Barlow p't decessū p'd'eī Tho. p'ris sui & p'fat Rogūs hūit quend. fil. noīe Rog. q̄ p't decessū p'oris Rogi p'ris sui erat integer Dnūs ejusd. vil. de Barlow &c.

O'ib; &c. Marg^{ta} f. Rogi de Barlow remis Rog'o de Barlow avunculo meo & hered' suis tot. jus. in m de Barlow &c. Dat. 1339.

Ego Rob. Collayn dedi Johi f. Rogi de Barlow ad vitam oīā mess. terr. &c. in Barlow, Chollerton &c.; rem. Johi f. Johis & hær. de corpē ip'ius Johis f. Joh'æ f. Rici de Holland. Test. Jō de Radcliffe de Chaderton; Ad. de Lever jun.; Ricō de Redish; Jac. de Barlow. 14 Ric. II.

Ego Hudd. de Barlow dedi W^o fil' meo oīā terr. & ten. &c. in Halghton & Wythinton, rem. Johi f. Rogi de Barlow &c. 2 Hen. IV.

Ego Hugo de Barlow remis Jō de Barlow sen. tot. jus. in Barlow. 9 Hen. IV.

Ego Nich'us de Prestwich cap^{lus} dedi Margerie de Barlow ad vitam 2 burg' in Man' q' hui ex dono p'dæ Margerie; rem. Jō f. Rogi de Barlow. Dat. ap^d Man' 22 Ric. II.

Fol. 174. Jō de Barlow de Barlow; Radus de Prestwich. 7 Hen. VI.

Joh'es Duūs de Barlow. 2 Hen. IV.

Ego Jō Wighull civis Ebor. dedi Johi de Barlow jun. oīā terr. mea in Bowkedgate & in le Mersh de Nottingham. 4 Hen. VI.

Ego Jō Barlow f. Johis Barlow sen. dedi Robto' Honford ar^o & Jac. Hull rect. ecclie de Northerdene oīā man. mess. &c. in Halghton. 36 Hen. VI.

Endent' ent' Rich. de Ashton de Mersey Bank & Nichol' f. Jō de Barlow. Alisand f. & h. du dit Nichol' a marrier a Eliz. filie de dit Rich. s. d.

Nichol. fil. Jō de Barlow & Alex. f. ejus conc. Georgio Barlow q'ddā campū in Barlow ad term 4 annor. 4 Jul. 29 Hen. VI.

Ind. 18 Aug. 30 Hen. VI. I. Nichol. Barlow s. & h. of Jenkin Barlow of Barlow & Annes his wife joyntly betaken & to ferme to George Barlow of Chollerton & to Rich. Barlow p'cell of land &c. for 5 years after the decease of y^e said Jenkin Barlow of Barlow.

Ego Nicholl. Barlow dedi Alexō Barlow f. meo oīā ten. terr. &c. q' nup' fuer Jō de Barlow p'ris mei in Withington seu alibi in co. Lane. 3 Dec. 6 Edward IV.

Ego Alex. Barlow f. & h. Nich. Barlow dedi &c. Johi Radcliffe de Radcliffe, Thurstano Tildesley ar. Jāc Hill rect. de Northerden, Raml. Ashton rect. de Ashton maner' meū de Barlow, &c. 18 Edw. IV.

Alex. Barlow de Barlow 5 February, 1557.

seised of the Barlow estate transmitted it to his son, Ellis Barlow, so named after his maternal grandfather. Ellis Barlow married Anne, daughter of Otes Reddish of Reddish Esq., and had issue a son, Alexander his successor, and a daughter, Margaret wife of Edward Stanley, third Earl of Derby.

The Barlow family at the time of the Reformation remained steadfast in their adherence to the old creed, refusing to embrace the reformed faith which England as a nation then adopted. They were blind to the corruptions which in successive ages had crept into the purer doctrine of their forefathers, and when Elizabeth attempted by penal enactments, somewhat rigorously enforced, to carry out the Protestant principles of the Reformation, which under her sister and predecessor had been threatened with extinction, much suffering awaited all who refused to conform.

Alexander Barlow Esq. seems to have been the first member of his family called upon to suffer persecution for the sake of his religion. Dr. Bridgewater in his *Concertatio*, quoted by Dr. Chalonier,¹ informs us that in the year 1584 no less than fifty Roman Catholic gentlemen's houses in Lancashire were searched in one night under pretence of looking for priests, but so as to send away the masters to divers prisons, where they suffered great hardships for their faith. He mentions particularly Mr. Travers, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Barlow, the last of whom was at that time so ill as not to be able to sit upon his horse, yet this could not save him from being sent to prison. He was taken in the first instance to Manchester, whence he was almost immediately removed to the seat of a gentleman of the same county whose name is not recorded, and there he died in August 1584. He was buried in Didsbury Chapel on the 26th of that month. It is related of his custodian that he himself afterwards embraced the Roman Catholic religion. Alexander Barlow Esq. was elected representative for Wigan in the first parliament assembled by King Edward VI. in the first year of his reign 1547, and continued to represent the same constituency uninterruptedly throughout the reign of Ed-

¹ *Missionary Priests*, pp. 83-84.

ward, and through the first four parliaments in the reign of Queen Mary, his successor, until the year 1557.¹ He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of George Legh of Manchester, a younger branch of Legh of High Legh, and by her had one son bearing the same name with his father, and several daughters. Other accounts represent him as contracting a second marriage with Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton, and as having issue by her a numerous family, one of his sons by this second marriage being William Barlow, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln; but this assertion is full of improbabilities. In the certified pedigree of the family, Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton, is described as being the wife of his eldest son Alexander. But what is conclusive of the whole matter is the simple fact that his wife Elizabeth Legh only pre-deceased her husband by the short space of eight months, and therefore no such marriage could have taken place, husband and wife dying respectively December 26, 1583, and August 26, 1584, both being interred at Didsbury.

In the *Stanley Papers*, part ii., p. 212 (Chetham Society's publications) the paternity of Bishop William Barlow is assigned to Sir Alexander Barlow, eldest son of the above first-mentioned Alexander, but this statement also meets with a ready disproof, the close approximation of their ages being irreconcilable with such affinity, the knight being born in 1558 and the bishop, according to his biographers, "about the middle of the sixteenth century."

That Bishop Barlow was descended from this family, and that too in a degree not very remote, has never been questioned, but it is difficult to establish the precise connexion. Wood (*Fasti Oxon.* p. 786) asserts that he "was born of, and descended from, the ancient and gentile family of the Barlows of Barlow in Lancashire," a statement which Baines repeats (*History of Lancashire*, vol. ii. p. 360); Chalmers, too (*Biographical Dictionary*, vol. iii. p. 487), gives Lancashire as the place of his birth. He was brought up in the family of Dr. Cosin, Dean of the Arches, and it is not unrea-

¹ Brown Willis's *Notitia Parliamentaria*, London, 1750.

sonable to suppose that having renounced the faith of his ancestors he had become an outcast from his father's house. In 1580 he was entered by Dr. Cosin as a student at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.¹ In 1584 he graduated in Arts, having previously removed to St. John's College. In 1587 he proceeded to the degree of M.A., and in 1590 was elected Fellow of Trinity Hall.² In 1597 he was created D.D., and resigned his fellowship on being collated by Archbishop Whitgift to the rectory of Orpington in the county of Kent. He was at this time chaplain to the archbishop, and soon afterwards received a similar appointment from the Queen. He became also Rector of St. Dunstan's in the East on the presentation of his former patron the archbishop, and also a Prebendary of St. Paul's. In 1601 he was installed Prebendary of Westminster, and the year following Dean of Chester. In 1603 he was selected by Archbishop Whitgift to draw up a narrative of the then recent and famous Conference held at Hampton Court, before King James, January 14, 15, 16, 1603, on the subject of episcopacy. In 1605 he became a Prebendary of Canterbury, and in the same year was raised to the bench as Bishop of Rochester, over which see he continued to preside for the space of three years, when he was translated to Lincoln May 21, 1608. He died suddenly at his palace at Buckden September 7, 1613, and was buried in the chancel of that church. He had the reputation of great learning, and was chosen one of the translators of the Bible. He published a life of Dr. Richard Cosin, his early patron; a narrative of the Hampton Court Conference; and several sermons. His will, dated April 6, 1612, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, is as follows:—

¹ Reference has been made to the College Register of entries, with a view to ascertain, if possible, from that source the parentage of Bishop Barlow, but without success. Unfortunately the names of parents were not inserted in the Registers of that College until after the year 1650.

² Baines gives 1587 as the date of his election to a Fellowship, but incorrectly, as appears from a reference to the College Books.

WILL OF BISHOP BARLOW.

Aprilis 6, 1612, beyng Monday in ye morninge.

In the name of God amen. I William Barlowe Bishop of Lincolne, most unworthie of that honoure, unfeynedlie I speak yt, beyng in perfect health of bodye and strengthe of memorye, do make and ordayne this my last will and testament inviolable to stand unlesse that hereafter I doe uppon juste occasion under myn owne hande revoke yt, for the chaunges of tymes are in the power of the mightie God unto whose mercifull handes and grace thoroughe Christe Jesus my blessed Savyoure I doe in all humilitie and earnestness first bequeathe and commend my soule so deerlie boughte with the precious bloud of that immaculate lambe the eternall Sonne of God incarnate that he mighte dye and dying that he mighte make mankynd to live, most humble beseeching that most gracious father for his owne mercys sake and the blessed Sonne for his deathe and passion sake to pardon the mannifould synnes of this my transgressing soule too muche taynted by the bodyes contagion and connection therewith, and to cast them all behinde his backe never to remember them either for my confusion in this life or my condemnation in the worlde to come, of whiche grace I have the more comfortable assurance because renounceing whatsoever is in my selfe I doe onely relye uppon all the suffieient meritts of my Lorde and Savioure Jesus Christe wthout whose grace alone I were a most forlorne, distressed and miserable wretche; requesting alsoe each person whome I have at any tyme in my lyfe by word or deede offended hartelye to forgive me as I doe unfeynedlye remitt all offences done to me. As for my bodye, as yt ys in ytself a sacke of filthe and lumpe of fleshe, the prison of my soule, I little regard yt, but as beyng of God's frame and the vouchsafed tenement of the Holie Ghoste an honorable vessel, I bequeathe yt to Christians and Christian buryall to be reposed amonge the neerest of kynne unto yt, y^t is wormes and corruption, and to be interred in my Cathedrall Churche yf I dye neere yt, or in the Collegiat Church of Westmynster yf there I dye, otherwise in the nexte parish church to my dwelling house

wheresoeuer yt shalbe that my soule leaveth my bodie. And for my temporall goodes wherewith God hath ben pleased to blesse me, and truste I maye saye trulie so, for in them there is neither bryberie, symonye nor sicophancye, I doe bestowe them in manner and forme followeing: First, unto her whome I chose for my comforte, Mrs. Johane Barlowe, the associat of my bourd and bed (of whose bodye alone and by noe other woman in the worlde I begatt all the children which I either have or had), I doe bequeathe and will in recompence of the twoe hundred poundes whiche she broughte me for her dowrye to be payed her presently after my buryall or funerall (yf there be any) in readye money, twoe thowsand poundes sterling, conditionally that she offer no disturbance to myn executours which shalbe named hereafter, nor give any ympeachment to this my last will and testament, nor yf she asperge me or my caling with any reprochefull or contumelious termes after my decease; for the better performance whereof I will that the money shall not be payed unto her before that she with twoe sufficient sewerties doe enter into bond unto myne executours and their assignes so to staye her selfe and also to be bound to make good unto her daughters one thowsand poundes, into which covennts yf she will not enter, then my resolucon is and so I will that she shall have but one thowsand poundes in all, and the other thowsand poundes to be equallie divided besydes their porcons hereinunder named betwene my twoe daughters Alyce Barlowe and Jane Barlowe: This condicon may seeme to some very hard and in a dying husband very uncharritable, but the reason thereof God knoweth and I hope alloweth, and so do they whoe have lyved neere unto us; I am sure yt can savour of noe revenge seeyng the whole portion (all circumstances beyng well considered) is a very fayer one (yf she can have the grace to be content therewith as I praye God she maye), and little can she doe yf she cannot afforde me goode wordes for yt. Item unto my eldest daughter Alice Barlowe I doe bequeathe one thowsand poundes; and to my yongest daughter Jaine Barlowe one other thowsand poundes also, besides the dividend of the one thowsand

poundes beforenamed (yf their mother be so ill advised as to refuse yt upon the condition specified), which severall sommes of one thousand poundes apeece to my daughters I doe will to be put into the custodie of the Worshipfull Companie and Societie of the Fishmongers in London, earnestlie requesting theym to take yt into their handes to ymploye yt for the best benefitt and behoofe of the twoe poore orphanes, the manner whereof because I will not burthen my will therewith, I have set downe in a paper by yt selfe that they may see yt and allowe yt. Item unto my sister Katharine, the wife of Thomas Johnson, Fishmonger, I do bequeathe the somme of one hundred and fiftie poundes conditionally that her husband and she enter into bond, or she alone (yf at my death she be widowe) to leave unto her sonne William Johnson one hundred pounds thereof after her deathe (yf he survive her) unlesse that he will be so kynde as to release her therof yf that he be otherwise provided and be made able to lyve of hym selfe before my death. Item I bequeathe unto William Orwell, my gentleman-usher (yf he be in my service or belonging unto me at the tyme of my deathe) twentie poundes to be payed him p^{ntly} after my buryall and funerall (yf there be any made for me) and he be present at them bothe or at the last especiallie. Item I give unto George Knellen my clarke of my kytchen, beside the patent of the parke and the housekeeping which with my money I redeemed for hym, twentie poundes in money to be payed as above is specyfyed in the legacy to Mr. William Orwell. Item I do give and bequeathe unto my faithfull servaunte John Balden (for whome I have yet done nothing) the summe of twentie poundes, to be payed as to the parties beforenamed is mentioned, and upon that condi^{ti}on that yf he be then in my service and present at my interring and funerall. Item I give and bequeathe unto the under officers, butler, cooke, wardrober and brewer, fiftie shillinges apeece yf those parties be in my house, whiche nowe at the date hereof have those places, otherwise not. For yf any or all of them be gone, then I will that their partes be given in almes to the poore prisoners in the gaole in Huntingdon, by twentie shillinges a quarter soe long as the

same will laste. Item I give unto Stephen Barrye whoe was broughte up from a childe in my howse (yf he be not my cooke) fyve pounds; yf that he be, then fiftie shillinges more then the other fiftie shillinges before, to make it up fyve poundes. Item I give and bequeathe unto the Societie of the Fishmongers in London the somme of fower score poundes, to be ymployed in the same and noe other manner then as the legacey which they had of my loveing mother Mrs. Alice Feild is used, for the benefitt of fower poore men in their company, by them selves to be named, whereof Thomas Philipps to be one soe longe as he liveth, and the encrease to be geven unto the poore of the parishe where my mother hath allotted hers, conditionallie that they accept of my doughters portions in that forme which shalbe prescribed. And yf yt happen that either of the maydens dye before they be marryed, then my will is that the portion of her so deceased shalbe ymployed in the fownding of soe many or fewer of Bachellors and Fellowes in Saint Johns Colledge in Cambridge (whereof I was once an unworthie member) as the master and senior the tyme beyng shall thincke meete, which shalbe called by the name of the Fishmongers Fellowes and Schollers of Bishopp Barlowe his foundaçon. Or yf the companie do refuse to meddle with the childrens portions then I doe requyre myne executors to make suite unto the Chaumber of London to take yt uppon those condiçions. And yf either of the wenches dye before their marriage, the portion of the deceased to pass unto the colledge as above ys mentioned, and they to be named London Fellowes and Schollers of Bishop Barlowes Foundation. Now for my plate, I doe give and bequeathe unto the Companie of Fishmongers my greate standyng cupp dubble guilte, covered and engraven with the hartes of men flaming rounde aboute yt (yf they take my doughters portions and soe ymploye them), and conditionallye that uppon everie of their Masters feastes dayes they make yt their grace cupp and put yt into the handes of the principall guest present to begynne in solempe manner to the rest; yf they refuse yt then I give yt to Saint Johns Colledge in Cambridge at their feastes to

be presented at the table after grace. Item I give unto Trinitie Hall in Cambridge my next tall standing cupp dubble guilte and covered with a case wherin yt ys placed, to be at their feastes in like manner presented. Item unto my man Simon Bibie I do give one of my silver standishes, chuse whiche of them he will. Item I give unto George Knellen my dubble silver bell salte and one of the deepe silver bolles which are commonly used for beere. Item I give unto Johu Cobden my lesser duple guilte salte graven and covered, with a man on the topp bearing a speare and target, which was once my mothers, and also the lesser of my trencher saltes duple guilte made triangle wise, and also one other of the deepe silver bolles used daylie for beere. The rest of my plate unbequeathed I will to be devided into fower partes by the weighte, and my bedfellowe to take one parte for her share. The other three partes my twoe daughters to devide betweene them, whiche I will to be committed unto some honest bodyes truste uppon landes to myne executors for the saffe delivery unto the girles when they come to age or marriage respectively. Item I give and bequeathe unto Mrs. Johane Barlowe, my wife, the bedsteed with all the ymplements of silke belonginge thereunto, with the bedding and whole furniture whereuppon we usuallie lye, and is placed in oure bedchamber which we nightelic use; and alsoe y^e arras coverlett which was not my mothers, for that I will that Alice shall have. Item I give unto my saied wife three liverye bedds and bedsteads whollie furnished as they stand at Westminster in myne house there. Item I give unto George Kenn that bedding which he hath of myne allreadie. Item I give unto John Cobden the bedstead, bed, blanketts, pillowe, bolster and mattresse which standeth in my bedchamber at Westminster whereon I lye myselfe, and one payer of flaxen sheetes. The sute of lynnens damasked whiche I boughte and is marked with A. B. I give yt to Alice Barlowe my daughter. The rest of my lynnens I wille to be sorted into three partes to be equallie devided betweene my wife and my twoe daughters. Item I give unto William Orwell, yf he then attend me, his choice of any guelding in my stable that trotteth. Item

unto John Cobden one gelding that acombleth, to be appoynted unto hym by my executors. Item unto my wife twoe gueldings of her owne choise, yf she will have any, and the use of twoe coache horses and the use of my coache for one quarter of a yere after my decease (yf she will undertake to keep them well and safe). Item I bequeath unto Trinitie Hall in Cambridge the Bible of Arius Montanus in eight volumes folio. Item the Councels sett out by Binnius in fyve volumes folio. Item the whole Civill course of the latter edition in six volumes folio. Item Plato in twoe volumes folio Greeke and Lattyn; all w^{ch} I will to be placed in their librarye uppon one deske by themselves, and the name of the donor to be set on the front of the deske. The reste of my bookes unbequeathed I give unto William Johnson my sisters sonne uppon condition that he be a scholler at my deathe; and yf while he lyve unlesse yt be uppon greate wante he sell any one of the folio bookes or give anye awaye which he hath not duple, he shall forfeyt all the rest to my executors, and they shall sell them to the benefitt of my twoe children, or yf he refuse them uppon the condiçõn specified. The rest of myne horses, hanginges, beddings, furniture, stocke and household stuffe of what nature soever y^t is not bequeathed I will my twoe daughters to take their choise of, yf there be enoughe to defraye succeeding chardges, and the rest to be sould, and after my funerall (which I would have decent, frugall and without pompous ceremonyes) and other necessary chardges and payments passed, I will to be devided equallie betweene my sayed twoe doughters. And I doe hereby constitute and appoynte my trustie and well beloved Mr. Christofer Wyvell, Chauncellor of Lincolne, and Mr. Thomas Taylor, Bachellor of Lawes, my present steward, to be joynt executors of this my last will and testament, requesting them to take this last paynes for me whoe have ever loved them well, and shall never see them agayne here, and to see that my children be well broughte up in the feare of God and good nourture withoute vanitie and dissolutnes; and to eache of them I doe bequeathe twentie poundes apeece

clearlie besides all their chardges, hoping they shall be no losers by this chardge undertaking. And yf they finde that I have overchardged my will, then I forbidd them to make any funerall for me, but onely to erect for me in the place where I am buryed suche a monument and no other as Doctor Goode nowe Deane of Westminster hath set up for hymselfe in the churche of Westminster. Item I do appoynt overseers of this my will Doctor Morison, Commissarye of Huntingdon, and Mr. Simon Bibye, to eache of whome I bequeathe fyve poundes apeece to put into a gould rynge, requesting them to have a tender eye even for God's sake to the bringing up of my twoe daughters. And thus having set in order my temporall estate which is not very grate, my mynde is much quieted, and I beseeche Almightye God for His Sonne Jesus Christs sake to give me grace that I maye bestowe the rest of my dayes whiche I have to lyve in setling of my soules estate for Heaven, the end of my hope and the purchase of my Savyours deere bloud, with whome that I may eternally lyve I do most earnestlie praye, and to whome alone for all His blessings I do ascribe all honor and glorye for ever and ever. *Scripti mea manu die et anno predictis.*

W. LYNOLNE.

To my funerall I allott twoe hundred pounds and noe more except my executors and overseers doe see that more may be spared, in this manner to be ordered:—To tenne poore olde men eache of them a gowne of fortie shillinges price. To my wife, children, sister and other of my consanguinitie and familye no women of either or retayners. for gownes and cloakes, one hundred and fortie poundes. For doale to the poore that daye fyve poundes in bread and money. Item I give unto the Company of Fishmongers one hundred pounds to be put by them into the handes of fower poore young men of that Companye whoe shall from tyme to tyme be named and appoynted by the alderman (yf there be any) of that societie with the Maister and twoe cheife Wardens, or yf there be no alderman, by the Maister and principall Warden for the tyme beyng, conditionallie that none shall have yt above twoe yeres together, and that they shall paye unto the

Companye for the use of that hundred poundes every yeare three poundes, amonge the whiche three poundes shalbe then distributed for the hospitall in Croydon in the countie of Surrey founded by my Mr. Archb. Whitegifte in this mañer, — 13^s 4^d for one y^t is a preacher licensed to preach in the p^she churche there yearly a sermon on the 22nd of March beinge the daye on w^{ch} the hospitall was founded, in w^{ch} he shall make hon^{ble} men^{cion} of y^t most revend p^olate Archb. Whitgift his person and action, — 13^s 4^d to make a compleate dinner for all or as many of the poore of y^e hospitall as shalbe at the sermon y^t day if not sicke or bederid, — 10^s to be put into the common box of y^e hospitall for a dividant among the poore, and 13^s 4^d for y^e Vicar of Croydon to give notice in the church unto y^e p^oishon^s every yeare on y^e Sundaie before y^e daye of y^t sermon, — & 6^s 8^d for one of y^e companie to be sent by the M^r and Wardens on y^t daye every yeare to see this p^oformed, — and 2^d 13^s 4^d to be equally devided ev^oy yeare in y^e Fishmong^rs Hall among 4 poore olde men or women of London at y^e nomiⁿac^{ion} and appoyntment of y^e alderman alone yf there be any, or the M^r of the Companie alone for the tyme beyng.¹

¹ It is worthy of remark that a family so constant in its adherence to the unreformed faith, and so steady in maintaining that faith even at the sacrifice of life itself, should have furnished two Protestant bishops, both of them filling the see of Lincoln. To Dr. William Barlow, who died in 1613, allusion has already been made. Of the second, Dr. Thomas Barlow, Wood speaking (*Athenæ Oxonienses*, p. 876, edit. 1721) describes him as being the son of Richard Barlow, and as born at Lang-hill in the parish of Orton in Westmoreland in the year 1607, "but from what family of that name descended I know not, though he himself hath several times told me that he was extracted from the ancient house of Barlow in Lancashire." He was educated at Queen's College, Oxford, of which college he became provost in 1657. In 1675 he was raised to the see of Lincoln on the death of Dr. Fuller. "He died," says the same authority, "at Bugden in Huntingdonshire on the 8th day of October in sixteen hundred, ninety and one, and was buried on the 11th of the said month on the north side of the chancel belonging to the church there, near to the body of Dr. Rob. Sanderson, sometime Bishop of Lincoln, and according to his own desire in the very grave of Dr. Will. Barlow, sometime bishop of the same place, to whose memory as well as his own is erected a marble with the following inscription thereon, which he himself a few days before his death made: — 'Exuvie Thomæ Barlow S.T.P. Collegii Regimensis Oxon. præpositi, Protobibliothecarii Bodleiani, Archidiaconi Oxoniensis,

Alexander Barlow Esq., the second of that name, eldest son of Alexander Barlow Esq. M.P. was twenty-six years old at his father's death in 1584. When only four years of age, in conformity with the not infrequent custom of those days, he was married at Middleton to Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Ralph Belfield of Clegg in the county of Lancaster Esq., a marriage which he refused to ratify when arrived at years of discretion. In July 1574 he sued for a divorce, and obtained it October 21 in that year. He said on oath that he never "did at any tyme ratifie the said pretensed mariage solempnized betwene them, for he doth not remember that e^v he was maried to the said Elizabeth or spake the words of matrimony to her, he was so young the same tyme it is said he was maried to the said Elizabeth." He afterwards married Mary, daughter of Sir Urian Brereton of Honford in the county of Chester Knt., by whom he had issue a numerous family. He was knighted in 1603 at Whitehall on the occasion of the coronation of James I. His will is dated April 14, 1617, and was proved at Chester in 1620.

I, Sr Allexander Barlow Knight (th' elder), beeing bothe of pfecte healthe and memorie, thanks be unto Allmighty God, doe make this my laste will and testamente in manore and forme followinge, that is to saye, ffyrste and foremoste I betake bequethe and duely and willingly render and resigne up my sowle into His sacrede devyne Magisties handes and mercy (from whom I acknowledge I receaved the same) verily hopinge by the deathe and bloodesheedinge upon the crosse of my sweete Lorde and Saviore Jesus Christe, and not psuminge of my owne merites, to be a saved soñte and a member and coeheire of that celestially kingdome, and that I die a true and pfecte recusante catholieke :

pro Dom Margareta Comitissa Richmondie S. Theol. professoris, Episcopi (licet indigni) Lincolnienensis, in spem lætæ resurrectionis. Epitaphium hoc moriens composuit, tumulum rev. prædecessoris Gulielmi Barlow rabie fanaticæ ruiturum sumptibus propriis extruxit. Obiit 8 die Octob. 1691, ætatis suæ 85." He married according to Lyson's (*Environs of London*, vol. i. part i. p. 234) the daughter of a widow named Vaux, who in 1615 owned the Spring Gardens, Vauxhall, and from whom or her husband and his family Vauxhall derives its name.

Secondly, my will and mynde ys that my bodye, as p̄sently after my deathe as maye be, be brought and lead unto Christiane buriall; and yf yt fortune I die wthin twentye myles of my house of Barlowe that my sayd bodye be leyde in Didsburye Church as neere unto my father as may be, and that there be noe pompe nor solemnitye used or donne for me. Also my will and mynd is that fyrste, all suche debtes as shalbe founde hereunto annexed or remaine under my hande or seale, at the tyme of my deceasse, be fully satisfiied and dyscharged out of my whole goodes. Also, my will and mynde is that my deare and loveinge wyfe shall have her full and due threed [third] p̄te (and that in favourable manore) of all the reste of the sayd goodes; and moreover my will ys that shee shall have the longe wrought quishen clothe edged aboute wth goulde lace. Also, I geve and my will and mynde is that my sonne Allexander shall have a peece of goulde of towne and twenty shillings. Also I geve to my loveinge sonne in lawe John Talbotte Esquiere the like somme of xxij^s in goulde. Also I geve unto my daughter Margreate Talbotte one peece of goulde of eleaven shillings. Also I geve unto my sonne George twentye shillings. Also to my sonne Robarte one cloake clothe of the same pryce. Also I geve unto my daughter ffrancis fortye shillings towards byeinge her a blacke gowne. Also I geve unto my grande chylde Alexander Barlowe his picture. Also I geve unto my wyffe my owne picture to keepe duringe her lyffe, and after her deathe then I geve the same picture to my daughter Katteren Barlowe to keepe till suche tyme as my grande chylde Allexander shalbe married and a housekeeper, and then my will ys that shee delyver the same to hym as a gyfte from me, and that yt shall remeane at barlowe then as an heireloom to the sayd Allexander Barlowe my grandechylde and his heires.¹ Also my will

¹ What became of this heir-loom at the dispersion of the effects of the Barlows on the extinction of the family is not known. A copper-plate engraved with a portrait, half-length, of Sir Alexander, taken as it seems from an original — probably *the* original — family picture, and at no very recent date, is now in the possession of Mr. George Barlow of Greenhill, Oldham. It represents Sir Alexander as habited in a black gown profusely ornamented with small tassels, his neck encircled by the ample ruff of the

and mynde ys that myne executors shall see p̄formed and dyscharged wthin towe yeares after my deathe the late will of my sister Elizabethe for soe muche as shalbe un̄formed and not dyscharged at the tyme of my deathe. Also my will and mynd is that the velvett sute imbroadred wth goulde be dysposed of to that ende and place as my father heretofore dyd dispose of the same; and I desyre myne executors hereafter named, though they keepe yt for a tyme yett not to defeande this my mynde and my fathers will. Also I geve unto the sister of my late servante Robarte Scoules whiche dwellethe in Craven in Yorkesheire forttye shillinges in money wthin one yeaere after my deathe; and yf shee be dead then to her eldeste chylde then liveinge. Also I geve to Robarte Hicheñe of Knowesley the some of vjs viij^d wthin one yeaere next after my deathe; and yf he be dead then to his eldeste chylde lyvinge. Also my will and mynde ys that xx^s be geaven and distributed amonge the poore of Hardaye, Chowlerton and Marslache by xij^d a peece doowle to praye for my soule, and the same distribution to be at the discretione of my executors wthin one

period. His right hand is raised, and in his left he holds a book. Above the head of the figure are the words IESV FILI DEI MISERERE MEI; SANCTA MARIA MATER DEI ORA PRO ME; and at the foot, SIR ALEXANDER BARLOW KNT. From the right hand corner proceed rays and the word ECCE, together with the sentence written diagonally until from the corner it reaches nearly to the head of the figure, TVFE SI ME ET TE, the meaning of which is not very clear. On the left of the portrait are several particulars of family history relating to Sir Alexander:—"ÆTATIS SVÆ 60, 1616. This Sr Alex barlow Knyght, the elder, sonne to Alex barlow Esq. who died in prisson for the Catholyck Relygion, had issue:—

1 Sr Alex barlow Knyght who together wth his father was knyghted att the coronation of Kyng James.

2 George.

3 William.

4 Edward.

5 John who died at . . . in Spayne

6 Robert dyed young.

7 Edward died an Infant.

8 Robert.

Elizabeth, died an Infant.

Margaret married to John Talbot of Sailbur' esquire.

francis.

Mary.

Jane.

Kathorin."

yeare nexte after my deathe. And for the reste and remaynder of all my goodes I geve and bequeathe them to my executors hereafter named, equallye to be devyded amongeste them. And of this my laste will and testamente I make my executors my three yongeste daughters, Mary, Jane and Katheren Barlowe, whom I doe charge upon my blessinge and as they will answare me in an other worlde to see this my sayd will duly and truly pformed accordingly.

Witnesses: Richard Smithe, Francis Greaves, Edward Warren.

The will appears to have been made by Sir Alexander when abroad, as the following codicil testifies: — “Also at my cominge out of England I remeaned indebted and chargeable onely wth the debtes of xvij^{li} and some odde moneye of the executorshippe of my late brother-in-lawe Edwarde Scarisbricke Esquiere, but hereby my will is that yt shalbe xx^{li} and yf yt canbe pved or knowen that I owe more, that yt be dyscharged lykewysse. Allso the remayne of the pformance of my late sister Elizabethe her will; and allso I take ytt that twenty nobles is oweinge to the scoule of Manchester which was heretofore taken up by my father.

Debtes due and oweinge to my sellfe: — Imprimis, The debte of the late Robarte Pilkington of Rivington esquiere, and recovered by a Judgement in the Co^mon Pleas, of 250^{li} and of iiij^{li} for charges of the sute. Also the remayne of the debte by lease from one Smythe. Allso the remeyne of the fyne of John Hardaye his house.

My father passed a fyne of all my landes in the fyrste and seaconde or seconde and threed yeares of Phillipe and Mary att Lancaster to John Parr and Gilbert Bibbey gent., the cotype or cyrograffe of whiche fyne I left in my clossett at Barlowe, but my sonne Alexander hathe gotten the same out from thence, by what meanes I know not, and woulde not delyver it me.

(Signed)

ALEXANDER BARLOWE.”

His injunctions relative to his interment at Didsbury were not complied with, or rather, dying abroad, a discretionary power was

left with his executors, and he was buried at the Collegiate Church of Manchester April 21, 1620. In a letter dated Manchester May 10, 1620, addressed by one Leonard Smedley to "the Rt. Worsh^l S^r Richard S^t George Kt. Norroy King of Armes at his house in Holborne," occurs the following passage referring to the state ceremonial which generally succeeded the interment of persons of consideration:—"Sir Alexander Barlow of Barlow ob. circa April 27, 1620, and was buried at Manchester Church by torch light, whose exōrs cannot yet resolve whether to have a funeral or noe by reson sūme of them ar yet in the south p^ts neere London &c. but within 20 daies I am to receave an absolute answer." He was succeeded by his son Alexander, who also received knighthood with his father at the coronation of James I. He married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Parker Lord Morley and Mont-eagle, by whom he had issue a son Alexander and two daughters. His second wife was Dorothy, daughter of Sir Thomas Gresley of Drakelow Bart. He died in 1642, and was interred July 6 in the Collegiate Church of Manchester. He makes his will April 4, 1631, eleven years before his death; it was proved at Chester July 8, 1642.

I S^r Alexander Barlowe of Barlowe within the countie of Lancaster Knight, not sicke in bodie but in good healthe and perfecte memorie, thankes bee unto Almightye God; yet knowinge that nothinge is more certaine then death, nor nothinge more uncertaine then the tyme when,—the life of man being daylie subiecte to so manie perills and casualties, and all men being especiallie comāded even by God Himselfe, accordinge to the example of good Kinge Ezekiah, to sett their houses in order,—have now in this tyme of my health ordained and made this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge:—ffirste, I comēd my soule into the handes of Almightye God my Creator, hoping by the pretious death and blood sheddinge of Christ Jesus my Saviour, to have full remission of all my sinnes, and in and through Him to bee freeilie purged from the same. Next I comēd my bodie to the earthe whereof it was made, to bee buried in the

parish church of Manchester as neare to my late ffather as conveniently may bee, desiring my executors hereunder named that I maye bee thither brought with as litle cost as possible can bee. Also I give, will and bequeath unto my sonne Alexander, begotten by my first wife, the some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Dorotheie the like some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Katharine the like some of five shillinges in money. Also I give and bequeath unto my sonne Thomas the some of fiftie poundes in money and one peece of plate w^{ch} was given by S^r Edward Mosley unto my said sonne Thomas at his baptizinge, and one double guilt salte. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Anne the some of fiftie poundes in money and my flatt guilt bowle. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Marie the like some of fiftie poundes in money and my double guilt bason and ewer. Also I give and bequeathe unto my daughter Elizabeth the like some of fiftie poundes in money and my nest of Tunnes double guilte. Also my will and desire is that my now wife Dame Dorotheie Barlowe shall have the keepinge of all theis parcells of plate duringe the tearme of her naturall life. Also I give, devise and bequeathe unto my said dearest beloved wife Dame Dorotheie Barlowe all the rest of my goodes, credittes, debtes owinge unto mee by bond, bill or otherwise, also my moneys, plate, jewelles, houshold stuffe, cattalls and chattells whatsoever or wheresover. Lastlye I doe ordaine, constitute and appointe my well beloved cosens Peter Egerton of the Shawe in the countie of Lancaster esquier, William Dauntesey of Agecroft esquier and Ellis Prestwich gentleman, to bee executors of this my last will and testament, unto everie one of w^{ch} I give and bequeath a two and twentie shillinges peece of goulde, hoping that they will trulie and dylie see everie parte and particular branche hereof executed and performed. And I doe nominate and appointe my lovinge brother-in-lawe S^r George Greysley Knight and Baronett, and my lovinge cosen Roger Downes of Wardleley esquier, Vice chamberlaine of the countie pallatyne of Chester, to bee overseers hercof. In

witnes whereof I the said Sr Alexander Barlowe hereunto have putt my hande and seale this fourthe daie of Aprill in the seaventh yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lorde Charles, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, ffraunce and Irelande Kinge, Defender of the faith &c. annoque Domini 1631. In presenee of theis persons whose names are hereunder written : — Alexander Barlowe, William Grantham, Alexander Smythe, George Brooke, James Birche.

But fiercer trials and yet more severe persecutions were in store for the family. The two rival creeds were engaged in a deadly struggle for victory, and in no county did Popery present a more determined front than in Lancashire. Conspiracies were from time to time framed by the Papists against the Protestant Queen and her government, and these called for the enactment of severe laws for their suppression. The tendency of such legislation was to drive into foreign countries those whose safety was imperilled by a continued residence in England. Many families sought refuge in France, where an English seminary was established at Douay in 1568, from which a succession of missionaries went forth, returning to their native land and devoting themselves to the work of resisting the Queen's efforts to abolish Popery, and conspiring against her majesty's person, which they did often at the cost of their lives. By statute 27 Elizabeth cap. 2, all Jesuits, Seminary Priests and other Priests made or ordained out of the realm, were ordered to quit the country by a certain day. It was further enacted, that coming into the kingdom after that time should be adjudged high treason. And that anyone receiving, relieving, comforting, &c. such person, should be considered a felon and suffer death. It was also decreed, that if any person, not being a Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c. &c., now being, or which hereafter should be of, or brought up in, any college of Jesuits already erected or ordained, or hereafter to be erected or ordained, in the parts beyond the seas or out of this realm, should not within six months after a proclamation in that behalf to be made in the city of London under the Great Seal of

England, return into this realm, and within two days after such return, before the bishop of the diocese or two justices of the peace of the county where he shall arrive, submit himself to her majesty and her laws, and take the oath set forth by her act in the first year of her reign, that then every such person who should otherwise return and be in the realm, should be judged a traitor and guilty of high treason. Should any person hold communication with any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c. abroad, or should he send any money towards the support of any college or seminary, then that he incur the danger and penalty of *præmunire*. If any one should send his child or ward to any college abroad for education, he rendered himself liable to the forfeiture of the sum of one hundred pounds. All persons knowing of or discovering any Jesuit, Seminary Priest, &c., and not informing within twelve days, were to be fined and imprisoned at the Queen's pleasure.

Of those Papists banished from their native land and educated beyond the seas, who returned to exercise the proscribed office of priest, were two of the younger sons of Sir Alexander Barlow the elder, — Edward, who took the name of Father Ambrose, and suffered death for his religion at Lancaster September 10, 1641, and his elder brother, known as Father Rudesind Barlow, who has not been identified by his true Christian name, but who in 1623, being at the time president of the English congregation of St. Benedict, was mainly instrumental in founding an abbey for Benedictine nuns at Cambray.¹

An interesting memoir of the former, derived from two MS. relations kept by the English Benedictines at Douay, one of them being a letter of his brother, Father Rudesind Barlow, to the abbot and monks of Cellanova, dated January 1, 1642, has been already given to the public by Challoner in his *Memoirs of Missionary Priests* (part ii. pp. 96–102); but as this work is little known beyond the communion of the Romish church, it has been thought worthy of insertion in the accompanying family memoir.²

¹ *Annual Register*, vol. xlii. pp. 428–9.

² See also Dodd's *Church History*, vol. iii. p. 100. Brussels, 1742.

Edward Barlow [the younger son] was a monk of the order of St. Benedict, called in religion Father Ambrose. He was born at Barlow Hall near Manchester in 1585, of pious and Catholic parents [and baptized at Didsbury Chapel November 30, 1585]. His father was that constant confessor of Christ, Alexander Barlow Esq., who made it his care to give this his son a Catholic and liberal education. By these means his tender mind, which had already a happy sweetness of temper and an inclination to piety and learning, was improved, and strongly established in the true faith and the love of God. When he was twelve years old he was taken from school to be page to a relation, a person of quality. But as he grew up and considered the emptiness and vanity of the transitory toys of this life and the greatness of things eternal, he took a resolution to withdraw himself from the world, and to go abroad, in order to procure those helps of virtue and learning which might qualify him for the priesthood, and enable him to be of some assistance to his native country. The place he made choice of for his studies was the University of Douay, which had been recommended to him by fame and by the testimony of many learned and pious priests who had studied there. Here meeting with two other young gentlemen of equal age and of the same inclinations, he chose them for his chamber-fellows, and with them frequented the humanity schools at Auchin College, under the fathers of the society, as the alumni of the English seminary all did during Dr. Worthington's presidency. When he had finished his humanity he was sent by the aforesaid Dr. Worthington (August 23, 1610) from the English College of Douay to that of Valladolid, where he went through his course of philosophy and part of his divinity; for before he had finished the latter he followed his brother Dr. Rudesind Barlow to Douay, where he received the habit of St. Benedict, and after making his noviceship at a house then belonging to the English congregation near St. Malo in Little Brittany, he was professed at Douay in 1615; and being now thirty years old, and otherwise very well qualified by virtue and learning for the apostolic calling, he was presented by his

superiors not long after his profession to the holy order of priesthood, and sent upon the English mission, to which he found himself strongly invited by an inward call. The seat of his missionary labours was his native country of Lancashire, "where," says Mr. Knaresborough in his MSS. collections, "his memory is held in great esteem to this day by the Catholics of that country, for his great zeal in the conversion of souls and the exemplary piety of his life and conversation." 'Tis scarce to be expressed what wonderful blessings the Almighty gave to the labours of this His faithful servant, who made it his constant business to join the care of his own soul with that of his flock, and to preach full as much by example as by words. Such was the fervour of his zeal that he thought the day lost in which he had not done some notable thing for the salvation of souls. Night and day he was ever ready to lay hold of all occasions of reclaiming any one from error; and whatever time he could spare from his devotions he employed in seeking after the lost sheep, and in exhorting, instructing and correcting sinners, and omitted no opportunity of preaching the word of God. But then he never neglected the care of his own sanctification. He celebrated mass, and recited the office with great reverence and devotion; had his fixed hours for mental prayer, which he never omitted; and found so much pleasure in this inward conversation with God (from which he received that constant supply of heavenly light and strength) that when the time came on which he had devoted to this holy exercise he was affected with a sensible joy as much as worldlings would be when going to a feast. He had also a great devotion to the rosary, which he daily recited and recommended much to his penitents; and was very tenderly affected with the sacred mysteries of the incarnation, passion and resurrection of the Son of God (which he there contemplated), and was much devoted to His blessed mother. He often meditated on the sufferings of his Redeemer with his arms extended in the form of a cross, and these meditations enkindled in his soul a desire of suffering for Christ, a happiness for which he daily prayed. He had a great contempt of the world

and its vanities, and a very humble opinion of himself, joined with a great esteem, love and veneration for the virtue of others. He was always afraid of honours and preferments, and had a horror of vain glory, which he used to call the worm or moth of virtues, and which he never failed to correct in others, sometimes in a jocose way, at others seriously, according to the temper of the persons. He industriously avoided feasts and assemblies, and all meetings for merry-making, as liable to dangers of excess, idle talk and detraction. He had no regard for temporal interest, and refused (though desired by many) to live in great families where he might be well accommodated with all things; choosing rather to live in a private country-house where the poor, to whom he had chiefly devoted his labours, might have at all times free access to him; to whom also he plentifully imparted both spiritual and corporal alms according to his ability. He would never have a servant till forced to it by sickness, never used a horse, but made his pastoral visits always on foot. His apparel was mean; neither would he ever wear a sword or carry a watch. He allowed himself no manner of play or pastime, and avoided all superfluous talk and conversation, more especially with those of the fair sex, how virtuous or qualified soever; and when the business of his calling obliged him to make any stay in such company, he kept his eyes fixed on the ground, and would not look them in the face. Being asked one day by a lady of quality why he so much avoided the company of women since he himself was born of a woman, he replied, "For that very reason I avoid the company of women because I was born of a woman," signifying that the corruption of concupiscence which from our very birth is entailed upon us by original sin, was what made him look upon himself obliged to use those precautions. He boarded with an honest country farmer, where his diet was chiefly whitmeats [milk, butter or cheese] and garden stuff, for he seldom ate flesh unless by occasion of company that came to visit him. He drank only small beer, and that very sparingly, and always abstained from wine. Being asked the reason why he did so, he alleged the saying of the wise man,

“Wine and women make the wise apostatise.” He was never idle, but was always either praying, studying, preaching, administering the sacraments, or (which he used sometimes to divert himself with) painting pictures of Christ or His blessed mother. He was sometimes applied to to exorcise persons possessed by the devil, which he did with good success. He had a great talent in composing of differences and reconciling such as were at variance, and was consulted as an oracle by the Catholics of that country in all their doubts and difficulties. He feared no dangers when God’s honour and the salvation of souls called him forth, and has sometimes, when engaged in such expeditions, passed even at noonday through the midst of enemies without apprehension; and when some people would desire him to be more cautious he would turn them off with a joke, for he was usually very cheerful and pleasant in conversation, so that they who knew him best thought he was, in this regard, not unlike the celebrated Sir Thomas More. Yet he was very severe in rebuking sin, so that obstinate and impenitent sinners were afraid of coming near him. Nothing more afflicted him than when he saw any one going astray from the right path of virtue and truth, more especially if it were a person of whom he had conceived a good opinion or had great hopes. Upon these occasions he would at first be almost oppressed with melancholy, till recollecting himself in God, and submitting to His wise providence justly permitting evil, to draw greater good out of it, he recovered again his usual peace and serenity. Some months before his last apprehension (for he was several times a prisoner), hearing that some persons whom he loved as his own soul were in a resolution of doing something very wicked, which was like to be the ruin of many souls, he was so strongly on a sudden affected with it, that it flung him into a fit of the dead palsy, which took away the use of one side, and put him in danger of his life. What added very much to his cross was the fear lest his poor children whom he had begotten to Christ should now be left destitute of spiritual assistance; and whereas his convulsions and pains seemed to have brought him to death’s door, he had this additional afflic-

tion, that no priest could be found to administer the holy sacraments to him. In these extremities, God Almighty was pleased to comfort him; and being in a manner out of himself he broke forth into these words:—“Lord, Thy will be done; a due conformity of our will to Thine is to be preferred to the use of the sacraments, and even to martyrdom itself; I reverence and earnestly desire Thy sacraments, and I have often wished to lay down my life for Thee in the profession of my faith, but if it be pleasing to Thy infinite wisdom by this illness to take me out of the prison of this body, half dead already, Thy will be done.” Whilst he was in these dispositions God was pleased to send him a priest of the society of Jesus to assist him, as he himself had twelve years before exercised the same charity to Father Arrowsmith in prison before his last conflict; at which time that confessor of Christ is said to have foretold that he should be the next to follow him; at least this is certain, by the testimony of Mr. Barlow himself, in a letter to his brother Rudesind (who quotes it in his manuscript relation), dated out of prison May 17, 1641, that Father Arrowsmith, “the night after he suffered (when as yet Mr. Barlow had not heard of his suffering) standing by his bed-side, told him, ‘I have already suffered; you must also suffer; speak but little, for they will take advantage of your words.’” On the eves before the principal festivals of the year, whilst Mr. Barlow was in health, the Catholics resorted to him from distant places, and passed the night after the manner of the primitive church, in watching, prayer and spiritual colloquies; whilst for his part he was employed almost all the night in hearing confessions. On the next day he treated them all with a dinner, where he and some of the more honourable sort of his flock served them that were poor and waited upon them, and then dined off their leavings. When he sent them home he gave each of them a groat in alms; and when all had dined he distributed what remained to the poor of the parish. His zeal had made him as well known in all that neighbourhood as the very parson of the parish. Some reprehended him for going about so publicly, to whom he replied, “Let

them fear that have anything to lose which they are unwilling to part with ;” which was not his case who had set his heart upon nothing in this world, and was even desirous to lay down his life for God’s cause. He could not be persuaded by his friends to retire further off from danger to a house of a kinsman of his in Cheshire, being desirous, if it pleased God, to shed his blood at Lancaster. He was beginning to recover of his illness but was as yet very weak, when he was apprehended on Easter Day, 1641, in the following manner, according to the account which he himself sent out of prison to his brother Rudesind :— A neighbouring minister¹ who had with him at church a numerous congregation, instead of entertaining them on that solemn day with a sermon and prayers as usual, proposed to them, as a work more worthy their zeal for the gospel, to go along with him to apprehend Barlow that noted popish priest, whom they would now be sure to find in the midst of his flock, whereas were they to stay till church time was over they would miss the opportunity. They relished the proposition, and being about four hundred in number, armed with clubs and swords, followed, the parson marching in front in his surplice, to the house where Mr. Barlow, having finished mass, was making an exhortation to his people, about a hundred in number, on the subject of patience. The Catholics that were within, as soon as they perceived the house was besieged, would have persuaded the man of God to hide himself, there being more than one private place for that purpose in the house, but he would by no means consent to secure himself and leave his sheep to the mercy of these wolves ; wherefore exhorting them all to constancy, and putting them in mind that these light and momentary tribulations would work in them an eternal weight of glory, and telling them withal how ready he was for his part to suffer all things for Christ, he ordered to open the doors. The mob immediately rushed in, crying out, “ Where is Barlow ? where is

¹ Other accounts fix the scene of his apprehension at Morleys, a seat of the Tyldesley family, and the name of the instigator Mr. Risley, a neighbouring Justice of the Peace.

Barlow? He is the man we want :'' and laying hands upon him they secured him, letting the rest go upon giving caution for their appearance. In the meantime they searched the whole house, and broke open Mr. Barlow's chest, in hopes of finding money ; but see the wonderful providence of our Lord ! Though there was a considerable sum of money there which had been lately sent him by some charitable gentlemen to be given to the poor, and though they rummaged and turned over all his clothes and other things, yet they could not find this bag, for which providence Mr. Barlow was very thankful, and gave proper orders afterwards for the disposing of the money according to the intention of the donors. Mr. Barlow being now in the hands of this mob and their minister (who, it seems, had acted in this whole affair without any warrant) was carried by them, the same day, before a justice of the peace, who sent him, guarded by sixty armed men, to Lancaster Castle. Some of his flock would have attempted to rescue him in the way out of their hands, but he earnestly entreated them not to think of it. He was carried to gaol in a sort of a triumph by this armed mob, who insulted over him and treated him with contempt, which was to him a subject of joy ; though at this time he was as yet so weak that he could not sit on horseback without one behind him to support him. He was kept in prison from Easter till the summer assizes, and in the meantime, instead of being weakened or cast down by his sufferings, he wonderfully recovered his strength and health. He would not hear of the propositions made by his friends, of using their interest to have him removed up to London, or sent into banishment, as many others had been ; but desired them to be easy and not to concern themselves about him, for that to die for this cause (viz. for being a Catholic priest) was to him more desirable than life ; that he must die sometime or other, and could not die a better death. To some also upon this occasion he imparted in confidence the vision which he had of Father Arrowsmith. In prison he often entertained himself with the book of Boetius *De Consolatione*, which the gaoler taking notice of, took the book away ; at which Mr. Barlow smilingly

said, "If you take this little book away I will betake myself to that great book from which Boetius learned his wholesome doctrine, and that book you can never take away from me;" and this is what he constantly practised by mental prayer. When any one came to visit him in prison he would not suffer the time to be lost in vain or worldly talk, but entertained the party with such discourses only as were for his instruction and edification. After above four months' imprisonment his trial came on on the 7th of September, before Sir Robert Heath, who is said to have had instructions from the parliament if any priest were convicted at Lancaster to see the law executed upon him for a terror to the Catholics, who were numerous in that county. The indictment being read, Mr. Barlow freely acknowledged himself a priest, and that he had exercised his priestly functions for above twenty years in this kingdom. The judge asked him why he had not obeyed the king's proclamation, commanding all priests to depart the realm before the 7th of April last past? Mr. Barlow answered that several persons there present, and especially they who had brought him to prison, very well knew that he was then so weak, by a long and grievous illness, that he was no ways in condition to obey the proclamation. The judge asked him what he thought of the justice of those laws by which priests were put to death? He answered that all laws made against Catholics on account of their religion were unjust and impious, for what law, said he, can be more unjust than this, by which priests are condemned to suffer as traitors merely because they are Roman, that is, true priests? for there are no other true priests but the Roman; and if these be destroyed what must become of the Divine law, when none remain to preach God's word and administer His sacraments? "Then," said the judge, "what opinion have you of the makers of those laws, and of those who by their office see them put in execution?" Mr. Barlow replied, "If, my lord, in consequence of so unjust a law, you should condemn me to die, you would send me to heaven and yourself to hell." "Make what judgment you please," said the judge, "of my salvation; for my part, though the law has

brought you hither as a criminal and a seducer of the people, I shall not pass so uncharitable a sentence upon you." "I am no seducer," said Mr. Barlow, "but a reducer of the people to the true and ancient religion." The judge, as he afterwards acknowledged, was astonished at the constancy of his answers and his intrepidity, and put him in mind that his life was in his hands, and that it was in his power to acquit him or condemn him; "and don't you know and acknowledge," said he, "that I sit here as your judge?" "I know," said the prisoner, "and acknowledge you judge, but in such causes only as belong to the temporal court and tribunal; but in spiritual matters, and in things belonging to the court of conscience, be pleased to take notice that I am judge, and therefore I tell you plainly, that if by that unjust law you sentence me to die, it will be to my salvation and your damnation." Upon this the judge directed the jury to bring him in guilty, and the next day pronounced sentence upon him in the usual form. Mr. Barlow heard the sentence with a cheerful and pleasant countenance, and said aloud, "Thanks be to God;" and then prayed heartily to the Divine Majesty to forgive all that had any ways been accessory to his death. The judge applauded his charity in this, and granted him what he petitioned for, viz. a chamber to himself in the castle, where, for the short remainder of his time, he might without molestation apply himself to his devotions, and prepare for his exit. On Friday the 10th of September he was brought out to suffer, according to sentence, and laid upon the hurdle, on which he was drawn to the place of execution, carrying all the way in his hand a cross of wood which he had made. When he was come to the place, being taken off the hurdle, he went three times round the gallows, carrying the cross before his breast, and reciting the penitent psalm *Miserere*. Some ministers were for disputing with him about religion, but he told them it was an unfair and unreasonable challenge, and that he had something else to do at present than to hearken to their fooleries. He suffered with great constancy according to sentence, and so passed from short labours and pains to eternal rest and joy, in the fifty-

fifth year of his age, the twenty-fifth of his religious profession, and the twenty-fourth of his priesthood and mission.¹

Sir Alexander Barlow the younger died in 1642, and was followed by his only surviving son by the first marriage of his father, and fourth of the name in succession recorded in the pedigree of the family. He married Frances, daughter of William Brereton of Ashley Esq., and dying without issue about the year 1654 was succeeded by his half-brother Thomas.

Thomas Barlow Esq., eldest son of the aforesaid Sir Alexander and his second wife Dorothy Gresley, married Winifred, daughter of Anthony Meinell Esq. of North Kilvington in Yorkshire, and dying in 1684 left a son Anthony his successor, who appears to have survived his two elder brothers Thomas and Alexander, and two daughters, Mary and Winifred. The latter daughter died unmarried in 1688, having two years previously made a will (dated December 6, 1686), wherein she disposes of her estate as follows:— She gives to her dear brother Anthony Barlow Esq. the full sum of £100; to her brother Mr. Charles Killingbeck the sum of £15; to her dear mother Winifred Barlow £10 and her silver watch; to Mr. Richard Mather £10; to Ellen Parkinson £1; to Elizabeth Renshaw £1; to her sister Mrs. Mary Barlow £10, to be distributed as she knows testatrix wishes. She gives to the poor the sum of £10; to Mrs. Ann Barlow her aunt £5; to Eliza Keth, her sister Barlow's maid, her crape manteau and petticoat; to her dear sister Mrs. Mary Barlow, whom she appoints executrix, the full and entire sum of £300, with the rest and residue of all her goods, debts, &c., after the discharge of all necessary expenses and legacies.

The name of Anthony Barlow Esq. appears in the List of Papists who in conformity with act 1 George I. registered their estates and the respective values thereof. The yearly value of

¹ There is a small engraved head of Father Ambrose Barlow, which bears the following inscription:— “Vera effigies R^{di} Ambrosii Barlo, presbyteri, et monachi congregationis Anglicanæ, ordinis S^{ti} Benedicti, qui pro Christi fide, sanguinem fudit Lancastriæ, in Anglia, 10 Septembris, 1641, æt. 55.”

his estate is returned at £171 9s. He married Magdalene, sister of Sir Edward Goulding, and died in 1723. His will is dated August 3, 1722, and discloses certain sympathies on the part of two of his sons with the cause of the proscribed Stuarts. Its provisions are as follows:— He bequeaths his soul to God, and his body “to the earth whence it came, to be decently buried without any pomp or show in the parish church of Manchester in the same grave where my late dear father and mother were interred and buried, the charge whereof I desire may not exceed the sum of sixty pounds.” He further gives all that his manor or lordship of Barlow in the said county of Lancaster, with all the rights, members, &c., and all his lands, &c., in Lancashire or elsewhere in the Kingdom of England, unto John Warren of Poynton in the county of Chester Esquire, Humphrey Trafford of Trafford in the county of Lancaster Esquire, John Moss of Manchester in the county of Lancaster woollen draper, and William Hulme of Manchester aforesaid grocer, upon trust, that as to the one messuage or tenement in Barlow aforesaid, now in the possession or occupation of John Hulme, unto the use of Edward Barlow, his third son, for his natural life. And as to those several parcels of land commonly called The Parkeye Meadow, The House Meadow, and Rason’s Meadow, to the use of his three daughters Winifred Barlow, Mary Barlow and Elizabeth Barlow, and their respective assigns for the term of their natural lives, equally to be divided. Then as to the aforesaid premises, from and after the determination of the several estates herein before limited, and as to and for all the rest and residue of the lands and premises whereof no use is herein before declared, he gives to the aforesaid John Warren, Humphrey Trafford, John Moss and William Hulme upon trust that they the said trustees shall out of the rents, issues and profits thereof by sale or mortgage of the same or any other lawful means, raise the several sums of £200 apiece to be paid to his three younger sons Anthony Barlow, John Barlow and Roger Barlow. And then as to the said premises charged and chargeable as aforesaid, he settles the same on the trustees aforesaid for the benefit of Thomas Barlow, his

eldest son, for his natural life, and to the heirs male of his body in succession. And for want of such issue, then to the said trustees for the use of Anthony Barlow, testator's second son, and his heirs male; and for want of such issue then in like manner for the benefit of John Barlow, testator's fourth son, and his heirs male; and in default of such issue then in like manner to the use of Roger Barlow, testator's fifth son, and his heirs male; and in default of such issue then to the said trustees, who shall from and immediately after the death of the said Thomas Barlow and Anthony Barlow and the survivor of them, convey the remainder in fee of the said lands to such person or persons who shall then be testator's immediate heir-at-law. "But in case there shall then be any interruption in the descent to my immediate heir occasioned by the corruption blood of the said Thomas Barlow or Anthony Barlow now attainted of high treason, upon trust then to convey the same to such person or persons as his or their heirs who should then have been my immediate heir-at-law in case the blood of the said Thomas Barlow and Anthony Barlow had never been corrupted as aforesaid." Provided always that it shall be lawful for the said trustees for and during the natural life of the said Thomas Barlow to lease all or any part of the said premises which have been usually leased, for one, two or three lives or any number of years determinable upon one, two or three lives, upon the usual fines. And it is his further will and pleasure that it shall be lawful for his said trustees during the life of the said Thomas Barlow by the direction of the said Thomas Barlow first had in writing under his hand and seal, to charge all or any part of the said premises, after the death of the said Thomas Barlow, with any annuity or yearly rent-charge to and for the use of Mary Barlow, now wife of the said Thomas Barlow, during her natural life, or in case of her death any other wife he may have, for the jointure of such woman, provided the annuity do not exceed the yearly rent of £10 for every £100 the said Mary Barlow or such other woman he shall hereafter take to wife was or shall be respectively entitled to at the time of their respective intermar-

riages with the said Thomas Barlow, and provided there be not any issue male then living of the said Thomas Barlow by any former wife. Provision is also made for charging the said lands after the death of the said Thomas Barlow with any sums not exceeding such portion as the said Mary Barlow or such other woman he shall hereafter take to wife was or shall be respectively entitled to at the time of their respective marriages, for the use of their respective younger children. Similar provision is also made contingent on the succession of Anthony Barlow to the estates, as already recited. And as for and concerning his goods, chattels and personal estate (after all his just debts and funeral expenses are discharged) he disposes thereof in manner following:—First he gives the sum of £5 to be put out in some faithful hands, and the interest to be distributed every Good Friday amongst the poorest of his tenants, or else to be paid to the overseers of the poor for Chollerton and divided amongst his tenants as aforesaid, which £5 was left by one Hartley of Chollerton, tenant formerly to the manor of Barlow. Also he gives to the poor of Chollerton town £5; to the poor of Withington forty shillings; and £20 to be added to the poor-stock of Manchester. Lastly he gives and bequeaths all the rest and remainder of his said personal estate to his said trustees and to his daughter Winifred, whom he appoints executors of this his last will and testament; and he hereby revokes all former wills. In witness whereof he has to this his will contained in two skins of parchment set his hand and seal this third day of August 1722. Witnesses, John Culcheth, Richard Chorley, Ralph Hilton.

On the death of Anthony Barlow Esq. the testator, in 1723, the estates appear to have descended to his eldest son Thomas, whose attainder had been by this time set aside. He married, but the name of his wife is not known. Sad differences arose between them, which involve other members of the family in the quarrel, and he ended his life in Lancaster Castle, where he was undergoing a term of imprisonment, the penalty awarded for an attempt to murder his wife. After his decease an action was com-

menced by his sister Winifred against his widow, who was charged with exhibiting a false and fraudulent inventory of the goods and chattels of her deceased husband. The depositions of witnesses summoned to substantiate the charge are dated March 6, 1734, and are as follows : —

Mary Barlow of Manchester, spinster, saith, that being sister of y^e deced^t in this cause, Thomas Barlow of Barlow Esq., she often saw in his life-time a silver watch he had, made by one Wolfhall of London, or some person of some such like name there, as she was told, w^{ch} her s^d brother very much valued and was much talked of and known in their family for its beauty and fine workmanship. That it was, before, y^e watch of S^r Edward Golding of Nottinghamshire deceased, her mother's brother, and that his widow either gave or sold it to her s^d brother. That it was a pattern (she has heard) of many other watches w^{ch} were sent and sold beyond sea at great rates. That her father, Anthony Barlow of Barlow Esq. deceased, had in his life-time a silver chalice doubly gilt, w^{ch}, wth y^e furniture of his chapel, was after his death sold by the said Winifred, one of his executors, to y^e deced^t in this cause, her brother, since whose death, to wit on y^e 8th of November last, the very same chalice (as she is well satisfied, having often seen it in her father's time) was at y^e old Coffee House in Manchester produced before S^r Oswald Mosley and this depon^t by her brother Mr. Edward Barlow upon occasion of clearing her s^d sister Winifred from an aspersion laid upon her of having taken it, and being weighed before she came into y^e company by a goldsmith, was found (as y^e s^d goldsmith afterw^{ds} told her) to be 14 oz. ten pennyweights, w^{ch}, at five shillings an ounce only, came to £3 12s. 6d.

Christian Harpur, spinster, deposed, that she lived as servant with y^e deced^t in this cause, Thomas Barlow of Barlow Esq. at Barlow, for about two years, ending a considerable time before his death; and after his death wth his widow Mrs. Mary Barlow at Manchester, for about two years more. That she understood he, Mr. Barlow, was much in debt, in so much y^t he never or seldom

appeared out of y^e doors but on Sundays, and there was but poor housekeeping by y^t means whilst she staid there. That after she came to live wth her s^d mistress again at Manchester her mistress told her of her masters having attempted to shoot her wth a pistol, and shewed her a bullet w^{ch} he discharged at her (as she said) and a scar on y^e back of her head w^{ch} the bullet made, and she likewise told her that, soon after, he being confu'd for that in Lancaster Gaol, she went wth her children among her own relations into Lincolnshire and staid there till after his death about a twelve month.

Parry y^e Proctor, on y^e part of Winifred Barlow, propounds and alleges that the s^d Mary Barlow has concealed and omitted out of y^e s^d inventory several cane and set workchairs, several sheets and table-cloths, a family and valuable steel seal, a purple cloth bed and a white quilt, two pistols, a blue pillion and cloth &c. &c., and particularly one small Tabernacle, one Crucifix, one silver Chalice, one white satin Vestment, one Veil and two Cushions, all rich and laid up with gold and silver lace, one black silk Vestment, one Veil and two Cushions all laid up with silver lace, one red satin Vestment and one Veil laid up with gold lace, and two Cushions of red gilded leather; three Albs, one richly laced; Six Table-Cloths, Six Side Table-Cloths, one armed Chair covered with white ffustian and worked wth red worsted, and eight Cushions of yellow stuff.

In Mrs. Barlow's statement of monies paid by her on account of y^e deceed are y^e followg items:—

Pd. Mr. Postlethwaite of Lancaster by y ^e hands of Mr. Broom, being a Book Debt owing by Mr. Barlow for money lent him.....	7	3	0
Pd. him for necessaries and attendance on Mr. B. in his sicknes	1	17	7
Pd. for y ^e use of y ^e Bed he lay on to the Gaoler of Lancaster		7	6
Pd. for a Shroud and making	1	3	3

Pd. for 18 pair of gloves and y ^e Pall at his funeral	1	19	8
Pd. for a Coffin	16	0	
Pd. for y ^e Church Dues and attendance at y ^e funeral and expenses.....	1	15	8
Pd. Dr. Bracken's Bill for Physic	2	10	3
Pd. the Coroner's fee for his Inquest on y ^e Dead	13	4	

On the 26th of September 1734 Mrs. Mary Barlow, in answer to the allegations on the part of Winifred Barlow, admits that her husband had a steel seal which cost ten shillings and sixpence cutting, and which was mislaid for some years after his death, and not found till of late, and therefore not inventoried; that the two pistols were never in the possession of her husband, though they might have been in the possession or belonged to her husband's father, and since his death kept by one Mr. Broom his steward till of late, for that she did never see the same till very lately that they were delivered to her by the said Mr. Broom; that her said husband had some time ago a pair of pistols with which he attempted to shoot and did really shoot at this respondent, and which she in the lifetime of her said husband sent away to London and sold them there. As to the pillion and cloth and the cloke-bag, the same being part of her own furniture for travelling, the same was taken by the appraisers as not to be properly inventoriable as part of her said husband's goods, but to belong purely to this respondent; that all the particulars mentioned in Article 8 are consecrated goods or ornaments belonging to the Popish chapel at Barlow, and are now kept together in a great trunk, all which, or the greater part thereof, are forbidden to be looked into or touched by the people of the Popish religion; that the said trunk was opened and everything therein shewn and discovered to the said appraisers at the time of their valuation, and were appraised by them, but by different names to what they are called or termed in the said Article, and are all comprehended in the fourteen last articles or items of the inventory.

William Fendown of Manchester, aged nineteen years, among other things, deposed that he has heard from his mistress that her husband Mr. Barlow once fired two pistols at the same time at her, and that she once gave him liberty to feel a large scar or wound which a bullet from one of them had made at the back of her head, and shewed him likewise the cap which she then had on and which was burnt and black with the fire or powder; for which fact this respondent has heard her say he was put into Lancashire gaol, and that after that she went into Lincolnshire with all her children, save one left at nurse, and staid there near a year, from whence, after her said husband's death, this respondent came down, a servant with her, into Lancashire, and hired with her in Manchester.

The judgment of the Court was that Mrs. Barlow had not exhibited a true inventory.

From these papers it would seem that Mr. Barlow died of the gaol fever in Lancaster Castle in 1729, in which year letters of administration of her late husband's effects were granted to his widow. He was succeeded in the estates by his eldest son Thomas, the last heir male of the family seated at Barlow. He married in 1760 a Miss Worrall, and dying without issue in March, 1773, was buried at the Collegiate Church, Manchester.

His will is dated November 6, 1771. He commends his soul to God, and his body to the earth, to be buried at the discretion of his executors. He wills that all his household goods, furniture, plate, linen, coach horses, cattle and all other personal estate be converted into money with all convenient speed after his decease, and that the proceeds be applied in aid of his real estate for the payment of his funeral and debts as far as the same will extend. And in case he should happen to die without issue, he gives and devises all that his capital messuage called Barlow Hall, with appurtenances, and all other his messuages, tenements, lands, &c. whatsoever and wheresoever, to Samuel Egerton of Tatton in the county of Chester Esq., William Tatton of Withenshaw in the said county of Chester Esq., John Houghton of Baguley in the

said county of Chester Esq., and Michael Walton of Manchester in the county of Lancaster, merchant, their heirs and assigns, upon trust, to the intent and purpose that they the said trustees apply the clear yearly rents &c. to the discharge of his wife's jointure or annuity according to the terms of a settlement previously made, and in payment of his sister's annuity according to his grant for that purpose, and in payment of such his debts as his personal estate shall fall short of satisfying, and also for the payment of the following annuities: — To his brother Humphrey Barlow £100 to be paid half-yearly until testator's debts shall have been discharged, and after such discharge of testator's debts then to pay to his said brother Humphrey an annuity of £200 out of the proceeds of the said estate during the remainder of his brother's life; and upon trust also to pay to his sister, the wife of Francis Bredall of Great Maddox-street in the county of Middlesex, apothecary, an annuity of £50 in case she should survive her husband and remain unmarried; and upon further trust for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and all and every son and sons of the body of his said brother Humphrey Barlow of Barlow, lawfully begotten, severally and successively, &c.; and in default of such issue then in trust for all and every the daughters of the body of his said brother Humphrey, lawfully begotten, &c.; and in default of such issue then in trust for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and all and every son and sons of the body of his nephew Thomas Bredall, eldest son of the said Francis Bredall, lawfully begotten, &c.; and in default of such issue, in trust for the first and other sons of the body of his nephew Charles Bredall, second son of the said Francis Bredall, lawfully begotten, they and every of them taking upon them and using the name of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust for the first and other sons of the body of his niece Mary Webb, the wife of — Webb of London, eldest daughter of the said Francis Bredall, every one of them taking and using the name of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust for the first and other sons of his niece Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the said Francis Bredall, taking upon them the name

of Barlow; and in default of such issue, then in trust that they the said Samuel Egerton, William Tatton, John Houghton and Michael Walton shall and do, as soon as conveniently may be afterwards, sell and absolutely dispose of all and singular the said lands and hereditaments so devised, and pay and apply all the nett money to arise by sale thereof unto and amongst all and every the then next of kin of him the said Thomas Barlow; provided always that his said trustees do and shall, in case his said brother Humphrey and his said nephew Francis Bredall both die without issue, pay unto his said nephew Charles Bredall and his assign, in case he shall be then living, an annuity for life of £100, to commence from and immediately after the decease of the survivor of them his (testator's) said brother Humphrey and his said nephew Thomas Bredall without issue as aforesaid; and in case his said nephew Charles Bredall shall also happen to die without male issue, then that they the said trustees shall pay in like manner unto his said niece Mary Webb the like sum of £100 per annum, to commence from and immediately after the decease of the survivor of his said brother Humphrey and his said nephews Thomas and Charles Bredall without issue; and in case his said niece Mary Webb shall also happen to die without male issue as aforesaid, then that his executors pay in like manner to his said niece Elizabeth, the like annuity of £100. Provision is also made for the maintenance, education and bringing up of any such child or children to whom the estate is limited, in their minority. He also directs that all the residue of such rents and profits, after the payment of all his debts, and subject to all the said several annuities, shall be laid out by his trustees in the purchase of lands of inheritance near to the said trust premises, or otherwise placed out at interest for the benefit of such person as shall happen to be entitled to the said trust premises by virtue of this his will. He also releases his said brother-in-law Francis Bredall from the payment of the money that he may happen to owe him at the time of his death. He consigns his letters and papers to the care of the said Michael Walton in case he shall be living at the time of his decease, and

in case of his death to the said Mr. John Houghton, with power to preserve or destroy such of them as shall be thought proper. He empowers his said trustees to grant leases of his lands for terms not exceeding twenty-one years. He revokes all former wills, and appoints the said Samuel Egerton, William Tatton, John Houghton and Michael Walton his executors. The will was proved at Chester June 8, 1773. William Tatton Esq., John Houghton Esq. and Mr. Michael Walton renounced their executorship.

On the 2nd of August 1785, pursuant to an act of parliament obtained for the purpose, the Barlow estate was offered for sale by public auction, and was purchased by the Egertons of Tatton. Its yearly rental was estimated at £800. It is now vested in William Tatton Egerton Esq. M.P. of Tatton Park.

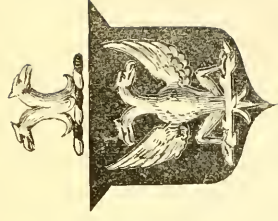


Barlow Hall, long the residence of the knightly family of that name, is interesting from its high antiquity rather than from any

distinctive merits it possesses in an architectural point of view. In the absence of any inscription or other like evidence it is difficult to assign any particular period as the date of its erection, but from its general characteristics it would seem to have been built at least so far back as the reign of Henry VIII. The original outline is in a great degree lost in the alterations and additions to which from time to time it has been subjected; but as far as can now be ascertained it consisted of an oblong pile of building comprising the great hall and entertaining rooms, with a wing projecting at right angles from the main structure, the latter containing the domestic offices and appropriated to the use of the servants and other retainers of the family. The quadrangle has since been completed by the addition of other buildings, but these are for the most part of comparatively modern date, and claim no particular notice. The hall itself and the offices immediately adjoining are built in that quaint half-timbered style so characteristic of the period to which they are referred. The framework consists of a number of vertical oaken timbers of the most substantial character, resting upon a foundation of solid masonry, connected by horizontal beams, and strengthened by diagonal bracing ribs firmly bolted into the main timbers, the interstices filled with a composition or plaster of lime and mud mixed with straw and laid upon laths. With the exception of one side of the court-yard but little of the timber-work now remains exposed to view, the greater portion having been coated with plaster, and now partially covered with ivy. In the interior the great hall, as it originally existed, was of truly noble proportions, occupying almost the entire of the main structure, and as was customary in the earlier period of the style, open to the roof. Its limits have since been circumscribed by the introduction of an inner ceiling, separating it into two stories, the lower story being now divided into three good entertaining rooms. The most interesting feature in connexion with the hall is a large oriel projecting from it, forming five sides of an octagon partially filled with stained glass, representing the armorial bearings of the Barlow family and their principal alliances. In one of the lights are the heads of a

double-headed eagle erased arg., the crest of the Barlows, with the motto PRIST EN FOYT. Near to this is a shield charged with the arms of Holland, azure semée of fleurs-de-lys a lion rampant arg. debruised by a bendlet gules. The most interesting coat is one placed near the centre of the window, evidently the arms of Edward Stanley third Earl of Derby, K.B. 1532 and K.G. 1547, Lord High Steward at the Coronation of Queen Mary, so celebrated for his magnificence and liberality that, according to Camden, "with Edward Earl of Derby's death, the glory of hospitality seemed to fall asleep." He died in 1572, having married to his second wife Margaret, daughter of Ellis Barlow of Barlow Esq. The shield, which is divided paleways, is without crest or motto, but is encircled by a garter with the motto of the order, "Honi soit qui mal y pense." Beneath is the date 1574, and the initial letters A.B. As the date given is two years later than the death of Edward Earl of Derby it is probable that these arms were inserted by Alexander Barlow Esq. to commemorate the marriage of his sister with the head of the house of Stanley, and this supposition is strengthened by the fact of the initial letters of his name accompanying the date. The dexter pale contains seventeen quarterings, including Stanley, Lathom, The Isle of Man, Harrington, Strange, Woodville, Whalley Abbey, Hooton, Ferrers, Goushill, Risley, &c. The sinister pale doubtless once exhibited the arms of Barlow, but these no longer remain, that portion of the shield being now blank. In the same window is another shield—Arg. a lion rampant gules, collared or. Near to this and within a circle is a coat consisting of seven quarterings, above which are the fragments of a helmet indicating that at some period the shield may have had the addition of a crest. The quarters are 1. Gules a fesse chequy az. and or. between three eagles displayed of the last. 2. Ermine a fesse azure. 3. Azure a cross or. 4. Argent three garbs gu. 5. Arg. on a cross az. five fleurs-de-lys or. 6. Or. a lion rampant guardant az. 7. Arg. three martlets gules.

Barlow of Barlow.



Robert de Barlow. =

Thomas de Barlow. =

Roger de Barlow. = Alicia
Thomas, second son.

Roger de Barlow. = Agnes
liv. 13 Edw. III. (1339.) Thomas = Marion Margaret.

Roger de Barlow. =

John de Barlow. =

John de Barlow, =
liv. 4 Hen. VI. (1425.)

Nicholas de Barlow, =
liv. 29 Hen. VI. (1450.)

Alexander de Barlow = Elizabeth, dan. of Richard Assheton of Mersey banke Esq.
nupt. 13 Hen. VI. (1434.)

..... dan. of Ellis Prestwich = Roger Barlow Esq.
of Hultne Esq. vixit 18 Hen. VII.

Ellis Barlow Esq. = Anne, dan. of Otes Reddish
of Reddish Esq.

Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas Eyre of Hope, co. Derby.
Anne, dan. of Sir Piers Dutton = Edmund Barlow Esq. =
of Dutton Knt. and relict of Hamnet Massey of Sale, Chester. dan. of Jackson of Man-

Alexander Barlow Esq. = Elizabeth, dan. and heiress of George Leigh
M.P. for Wigan 1547-57; bur. at Didsbury Aug. 26, 1584. Inq. Dec. 26, 1583.
of Manchester, 2nd son of Thomas Leigh of West Hall in High Legh Esq. (see Ormerod, vol. i. p. 353); bur. at Didsbury Dec. 26, 1583.

Margaret, wife of Edward Stanley, 3rd Earl of Derby.

Elizabeth, dan. = Sir Alexander Barlow, = Mary, dan. of
and coheirress at 26, 27 Eliz.; knight- Sir Urian
ed by Jas. I. in 1603 at Breton of
Whitball; bur. at Coll. Honford.co.
Ch. Manchester, April Cest. Knt.;
21, 1620; will dat. April bur. at Coll.
14, 1617. Ch. July 10, 1627.

Mary, wife of John Leigh
youngerson
of Richard
Leigh of
West Hall,
High Legh,
Esq.

Margaret, wife of Edward Scars-
brick Esq.; was
dead in April,
1617.

Elizabeth.

Jane.

Anne, wife of Richard Hal-
sall of Hal-
sall; mar.cov.
dat. 2, 3 Phil-
lip and Mary.

Elizabeth, dau. of Sir Alexander Barlow, will dat. April 4 1631; proved at Chester in liv. April 4, 1631. July 6, 1642.

Margaret, bapt. at Didsbury Sept. 16, 1581; liv. 1617; wife of Sir John Talbot of Salesbury Kut.

Edward, bapt. at Didsbury Nov. 30, 1585; suffered at Lancaster for his religion Sept. 10, 1641.

Alexander Barlow = Frances, dau. of William Esq. liv. April 1617; succeeded by his brother Thomas about 1654; s.p.
Dorothy, liv. April 1631; wife of James Gorsuch Esq. of Gorsuch Esq.
Katharine, liv. April 1631; wife of Henry Norris of West Derby.

George, bapt. at Didsbury March 4, 1581-82; liv. 1617.

Jane, bapt. at Didsbury July 21, 1589.
Katharine, ob. Dec. 26, 1586; bur. at Breco, co. Essex, s.p.

Mary.

Thomas Barlow = Winifred, dau. of Anthony Esq. at 46 in Meinel of North Kil. 1644; bur. at vington, co. York; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 1, 1684.

Mary, = Caryl Molyneux, Visct. Molyneux. liv. April 1631.

Elizabeth, 4th wife of Thomas Vavasor of Weston, co. York; liv. April 1631.
Henry, bapt. at Didsbury June 27, 1619. William, bapt. at Coll. Ch. March 25, and bur. there April 1, 1622.

Thomas Barlow, at 6, 1664.
Alexander Barlow.
Anthony Barlow of Barlow = Magdalene, sister Esq.; bur. at Coll. Ch. Sept. 10, 1723; will dat. Aug. 3, 1722, and proved at Chester May 24, 1733.

Mary, executrix of her sister Winifred's will. will dat. Dec. 6, 1686, and proved at Chester 1688; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 17, 1688.

Winifred Barlow; will dat. Dec. 6, 1686, and proved at Chester 1688; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 17, 1688.

Thomas Barlow = Mary, dau. of James Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 24, 1718. years.
James Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. June 19, 1718.
Winifred; bur. at Coll. Ch. Feb. 11, 1753; executrix of her father's will.

Elizabeth. Charles Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. Dec. 16, 1698.

4 John Barlow, mentioned in his father's will.
5 Roger Barlow; mentioned in his father's will.

Thomas Barlow of Barlow = dau. of Worrall; mar. Dec. 11, 1700.
Esq.; died March 3, 1773, in his 54th year; bur. at Coll. Ch. March 5; will dat. Nov. 6, 1771, and proved at Chester June 8, 1773; s.p.

Humphrey Barlow, at 16, July 17, 1742, when his tuition was granted to his brother Thomas.
A daughter; mar. to Francis Bredall of London, apothecary; named in her brother's will.

Mary Barlow; bur. at Coll. Ch. April 1, 1734.

The earliest Population Returns for Chorlton-cum-Hardy are in the year 1714, at which time the township contained 65 families, or about 325 individuals; of these families 14 were dissenters. In 1774 no great increase in the numbers had taken place; the houses comprehended in the same limits were but 71, and these were tenanted by 75 families, or 378 individuals; of whom one hundred and forty-seven were under the age of 15; sixty-nine above 50; seventeen above 60; ten above 70, and two above 80. In 1801 the inhabitants numbered 513; in 1811, 619; in 1821, 624; in 1831, 668; in 1841, 632; and in 1851, 761. From a stray leaf of the transcript of the Chapel Registers deposited in the Diocesan Registry at Chester it appears that the number of baptisms solemnized at Chorlton Chapel in 1639 was eleven. In 1655, 42 persons were rated to the relief of the poor within the township, including Mr. Barlow of Barlow £2 8s. 4d.; John Barlow, James Chorleton, Mr. Moseley of Birch House, Henry Rigbie, &c. The aggregate rate paid is not given. In 1854 the number of rate-payers in the township was 139, and the total amount of rate collected was £303 17s. 9d.

In 1692 the annual value of real property in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, as assessed to the land-tax, was £236 15s.; in 1815, as assessed to the county-rate, £2,941; in 1829, £4,314; in 1841, £4,579; and in 1853, £4,241. The returns for the latter year were, however, subjected to a deduction not previously made of one-twelfth from lands and one-sixth from buildings.

Chorlton contained, in 1854, twenty-seven county voters. There were in the same year three public-houses and three beerhouses. It has no colliery, railway or canal; no mill or manufactory of any description, being almost entirely agricultural.

The area of the township, as given by Rickman in the Population Returns of 1831, is 1,400 acres; Messrs. Johnson and Son estimate it at 1,249 acres; the Tithe Commissioners, in the Census Returns of 1851, at 1,265 acres; and the Ordnance Survey at 1,279a. 2r. 35p.

In 1845 there were twenty-three landowners in the township.

Of these the chief were Wilbraham Egerton Esq., who owned 887a. 2r. 12p. and George Lloyde Esq. 231a. 1r. 18p. Assuming the area of the township to be 1,210 acres, it was thus divided :— Arable land, 490 acres ; meadow and pasture, 680 acres ; wood, 10 acres ; roads, &c., 30 acres.

Chorlton-cum-Hardy is in the Poor-law Union of Chorlton, and is one of the twelve townships composing that union, — Ardwick, Burnage, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Didsbury, Gorton, Hulme, Levenshulme, Moss-side, Openshaw, Rusholme and Withington. The workhouse is situated locally in the last-named township, and has been recently erected. It is surrounded by a sufficient quantity of land to afford a labour-test to which to subject the applicants for relief. The extent of land originally purchased was 24a. 1r. 15p., to which 35a. 1r. 27p. have since been added at a cost of £7,929. The cost of the workhouse itself, including that of the land originally purchased and exclusive of the fittings, was £34,927 16s. 4d. The fittings, including steam, water and gas provision, filtering apparatus, lavatories, &c., £3,555 8s. 1d.; architect's commission, salary of clerk of the works, &c., £2,903 0s. 2d. The entire cost, exclusive of the second purchase of land, being £45,519 11s. 1d. The total population of the Chorlton union is 130,000, and the house is calculated to accommodate 1,576 inmates.

In its ecclesiastical relations, Chorlton was tributary to Manchester, lying within the limits of that parish, and paying tithe to the Warden and Fellows as rectors thereof.

In the reign of Elizabeth, Alexander Barlow Esq. farmed the tithes of Chorlton, and was in 1566 plaintiff in a suit at Lancaster, in which Thomas Herle, Warden of Manchester was defendant, this being one of the many actions entered against him for his mismanagement of the estates of the church over which he presided, and for his injustice towards the parties with whom he entered into contracts.

In 1701 the tithes of the township were leased by the Warden and Fellows, but the name of the lessee is not given ; and as

Stretford and Trafford are united with it in the return, no inference can be drawn as to what proportion of the £65 1s. 4d., the rent paid, was due from Chorlton. In addition to this, Mr. Barlow paid £19 as lessee of the tithes chargeable on his own demesne of Barlow. In 1848 the rent-charge of the township payable in lieu of tithes was £173 17s. 6d., exclusive of £9 0s. 6d. claimed by the impropiator (the Rev. R. M. Fielden.)

The original chapel at Chorlton was erected in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII. about the year 1512. It was a quaint-looking structure in that picturesque, half-timbered style so common amongst the domestic buildings of the period, though rarely adopted in those of an ecclesiastical character. The details were for the most part marked by extreme simplicity, and in form and general external appearance it bore a striking resemblance to the ancient chapel at Denton erected about the same period, and still in existence. The plan was rectangular, with a chancel at the eastern end. The basement, to the height of about eighteen inches above the ground, was of solid masonry, and on this rested the principal timbers of the building, connected by horizontal beams, and strengthened by diagonal bracing ribs. The roof was rather acute in pitch, and with a view of affording greater protection from the elements, the eaves were extended some distance beyond the outer surface of the walls. The several gables were protected by barge-boards, and, as was customary in this style, were each surmounted at the apex by a hip-knob. The windows were plain, square-headed and placed at irregular intervals along the side, a three-light window of similar character lighting the eastern gable of the chancel. The main entrance was by an arched doorway at the western end of the south side, and over it and against the wall was placed a sun-dial. A small bell-cot surmounted the western gable. In 1779 the old chapel was taken down, and the following year a plain unsightly structure of brick was erected in its stead. This building being found inadequate to the wants of the people, was in 1837 enlarged by the addition of north and south aisles, by which two hundred additional sittings were gained. It

calls for no particular notice. As already stated, it is of brick, without any pretensions to architectural excellence. Like the older edifice which it superseded, it is rectangular in form, lighted on either side by three circular-headed windows, a small brick tower flanking the western gable, the lower stage of which constitutes the main entrance to the chapel.

Of the early founder we can but conjecture, having no certain knowledge; and it is no slight discouragement to the investigator into its past annals that not a single document or memorandum relating either to the chapel itself or to its ministers has survived, the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials alone remaining in the hands of the rector, and of these some of the volumes are lost, the earliest still deposited in the chapelry-chest commencing as recently as the year 1737. We shall not perhaps assume more than the facts of the case will justify if we ascribe its foundation to the family of Barlow, which was the great and almost only family of influence in the township.

It its earlier years it would be associated with the services of the Roman Catholic religion, shortly afterwards yielding to the new state of things introduced by the Reformation. It would lapse again into Popery under Queen Mary, and would finally be restored to Protestantism under Elizabeth, its founders meanwhile continuing steadfast in their adherence to the ancient and unreformed faith.

In the first year of the reign of Queen Mary (1553) Chollerton Chapel within Manchester parish is named in a commission issued from the Duchy Court of Lancaster, addressed in the Queen's name to Sir Richard Sherburne Knt. This commission recites a former enactment of the 7 Edward VI., the object of which was to enquire, search and survey what lands, tenements, bells, chalices, plate, jewels, stocks of kine, sheep, money and other things belonging to chantries in the county of Lancaster ought to have come to the said king by the force of the act of parliament in that case made and provided; and then proceeds to say that divers bells, &c. in several parishes (and amongst others in Manchester

parish that of Chollerton Chapel is named) had not come into his hands by virtue of such former commission, the parishioners still retaining the same. The design, therefore, of her majesty's present commission was to direct enquiry to be made what bells, &c. so remained in the parishioners' hands according to an inventory with such commission.¹

In 1573, in common with the other chapels in Manchester parish, Chorlton Chapel was included in certain injunctions given to the Master or Warden of the Collegiate Church by the Archbishop of York and other the Queen's Majesty's commissioners "about residence of the Warden and Fellows, and diligent and constant preaching every Sunday in the church of Manchester or in one of the chapels."²

No district was at any time formally assigned to Chorlton Chapel; and as one of the four chapels within the manor of Withington (the others being those of Didsbury, Birch and Denton) its utility was probably limited to the township in which it was situated, unless indeed in early times it shared with Didsbury the inhabitants of Birch before the erection of a chapel in that immediate neighbourhood.

Thus erected, an endowment, always scanty, was provided, consisting of certain sums given for the support of a resident minister, the money to be lent out at interest, and the proceeds to be applied for the minister's maintenance. In 1650 this fund, or church-stock as it was called, amounted to £69; it belonged jointly to the chapel and a schoolmaster. Mr. Benson the curate had "received some allowance from the sequestrations, but that had ceased although he was compliant with the demands of the ruling powers."³

From a return made to the Bishop of Chester (Gastrell) in 1704 the annual income of the curate was £1 15s., being the interest of money left. There was more, but £80 was lost by a tradesman in Manchester, to whom it had been lent.

¹ *Ducatus Lancastriæ*, vol. ii. p. 138. ² Hollingworth's *Mancuniensis*, pp. 82, 83.

³ Lansdowne MSS. 459, fo. 5.

In 1717 the Rev. Joseph Dale was curate of Chorlton ; he stated that the inhabitants contributed £10 a year towards his maintenance.

In 1723 the chapel was augmented with the sum of £200.

In 1835 the annual value was returned at £103, arising from £400 private benefactions and £600 derived from the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty. These amounts have been invested in the purchase of land, and in 1855 the sources of income of the chapel were returned as follows : — A farm situated at Bramhall in the county of Chester, value £60 per annum ; another farm in Northen Etchells in the same county, value £32 per annum, together with the two sums £200 and £600 in the funds (three per cent) held by the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the benefit of the Incumbent.

The chapel is dedicated to St. Clement, and is in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, whose predecessors appear to have exercised an undisputed right of patronage. It was returned in 1850 as a District Chapelry under 59 George III. c. 134, the chapel containing 521 sittings, 200 of which were free. In 1673 two Wardens were chosen who served for the two hamlets, namely Chorlton and Hardy within the manor of Withington.

Schools in connexion with the chapel were originally erected in 1817, by voluntary contributions, on a site subsequently conveyed in 1843 by George Lloyd Esq. of Stockton Hall near York, together with a cottage for the teacher's residence and a garden annexed. These schools were taken down in 1845, and new and more commodious premises erected by the Rev. W. Birley, the incumbent, aided by two grants of £150 from the Committee of Council on Education, and £75 from the National Society. They are in the Tudor style of Gothic architecture, built of brick with mullions and dressings of stone. Over the centre doorway is the inscription, "St. Clement's Sunday and Day Schools, erected by private subscription A.D. 1817 ; rebuilt A.D. 1845."

A small chapel was opened by the Wesleyans in 1805, but in 1826, being found to be too small to accommodate the congrega-

tion, it was resolved to rebuild it on the same site, which was accordingly done at a cost of £689. Its chief promoters were a family named Brundrett. The site (540 square yards) was given by Mr. Jeremiah Brundrett. The chapel is of brick, and is 36 feet by 30 feet. It contains 274 sittings, 100 of which are free.

The names of the earlier ministers who officiated at Chorlton have been irrecoverably lost. We find no allusion to any of them of a date earlier than 1598. In the Visitation returns of that year (September 13) the chapel is thus referred to:—"Chowlerton Chapel, no curate but a reader who keepeth a school." At the Visitation of 1604 the Lector or Reader at Cholreton Chapel, Roger Worthington by name, was reported to the Bishop for letting out money on usury. On being summoned to appear he confessed "that he lent out *iiij^{li}* after *ij^s* in *y^e* pound and not above." He was enjoined to pay to *y^e* poor mans box at Cholreton *ij^s* and to refraine hereafter. Sir Nicholas Mosley Knt., who died in 1612, left the sum of £100 to be paid in annual instalments of £5 to a schoolmaster who should teach school at Chollerton Chapel, the said schoolmaster "to reade praire three tymes *evie* week in the said chapell." On the 7th of July 1617 John Dickenson was licensed as Reader and Schoolmaster of Chorlton. Thus the earlier ministers of the chapel, as far as can now be ascertained, were not from the ranks of the regularly ordained clergy, but men of inferior position and education, who united in their individual persons the office of Reader in the chapel and Schoolmaster of the village, the endowment being too scanty (if indeed any existed at all) to provide for the wants of a resident curate duly qualified. In 1636 the Rev. John Bradshaw was curate of Chorlton, where he remained until 1639, being appointed in that year to succeed the Rev. John Davenport at Didsbury Chapel. He died in 1645, and was buried at Didsbury. On the resignation of Mr. Bradshaw in 1639 the Rev. John Pollett was nominated to the chapel, and signs in that year the transcripts of the registers annually sent to the Episcopal Registry at Chester. It was during Mr. Pollett's incumbency at Chorlton that the

Presbyterian form of church government was established by law, and commended to general observance. Mr. Pollett refusing to accommodate his teaching to the new order of things, was "teazed, harassed and at length (in 1647) dispossessed" by the Second Lancashire Classis.¹ The specific charges brought against him were that he maintained episcopacy, and defended the use of the surplice and Book of Common Prayer. A Mr. John Pollett was curate of Prestwich from 1640 to 1647, but the cures lie too wide asunder to render it probable that the same person is intended; doubtless there were two of the same name. In 1658 a Mr. Pollitt was "minister of God's word" at Milnrow in the parish of Rochdale.

On the dismissal of Mr. Pollett, the Rev. Richard Benson was appointed curate. Scarcely had he entered on his duties when he found himself at variance with the elders of his congregation, and on January 6, 1647-48, Mr. Benson summoned them before the classis on a charge of using "railing words." The following depositions were taken:—John Hoult saith hee was in y^e lower end of y^e chapel and cannot speak anything materiall to y^e questions propounded. John Warburton saith y^t there was some rayling words betwixt Mr. Benson and y^e elders at Chollerton, but hee went forth of y^e chappell and remembereth not y^e words. George Jackson saith hee knoweth not of any rayling words Mr. Benson gave to y^e elders. Nathaniel Taylor saith that Mr. Benson having read a note in Chorlton Chappell, James Chorlton said he lyed, and then he heard Mr. Benson say to James Chorlton that hee was a dishonest man. James Chorlton, when called upon to answer the allegations, acknowledged that he had wronged Mr. Benson, "giving him y^e lye as y^e said Mr. Benson was in y^e pulpit;" and expressed his regret for what he had done; this he was ordered to do by the classis. Mr. Benson held the curacy of Chorlton until his death, which occurred in 1651. He is described by the Parliamentary Commission of 1650 as "a painfull godly preaching minister."² He was buried (May 27) at Stretford.

¹ Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, pp. 40 and 421.

² Lansdowne MSS. 459, fo. 5.

His successor, the Rev. John Adcroft, was curate of Stretford Chapel, which he had held for about two years before his removal to Chorlton, and during that brief space seems to have given offence to the classis by his disregard of their authority. In November 1649 a summons was issued to compel his presence at the next classical meeting, and in the following January Mr. Hollingworth is "desired to confer with Mr. Odcroft ye preacher at Stretford." On the 13th of May 1651, Evan Clarke is requested to go to Mr. Adcroft, and to tell him that the class expects his attendance the second Tuesday in June next, and also to speak to Mr. Benson to see what he can say concerning the course Mr. Adcroft holds in making clandestine weddings, baptizing children, and concerning his life and conversation. At the following classical meeting, June 10, Evan Clarke brought Mr. Adcroft's answer in writing; its consideration was deferred until the next meeting. At the next meeting, July 8, Mr. Warden was desired to request the assistance of some justice of the peace in relation to ordinance of parliament concerning Mr. Adcroft's contempt of the class. It was also then agreed that warrants be sent forth to desire some witnesses to come before the class to testify what they can concerning Mr. Adcroft. The further consideration of the matter at the next meeting, August 12, was postponed in consequence of the inability of Mr. Warden to be present; from which time there is no further allusion to his imputed delinquency, and Mr. Adcroft is removed from Stretford to Chorlton. His residence at Chorlton seems to have continued for about three years, and to have terminated in 1654. The next minister in succession was Mr. James Jackson B.A., who immediately followed Mr. Adcroft. For upwards of a year he officiated as curate, though unordained, and it was not till July 5, 1655, that he received orders, which were conferred at Chorlton Chapel. Mr. Rathband of Prestwich preached on the occasion; Mr. Meeke of Salford gave the exhortation; Mr. Constantine of Oldham and Mr. Seddon prayed. Mr. Jackson continued to fill the cure till starved into a relinquishment of it by the want of liberality on the part of his hearers. The classis,

unwilling to accept his resignation, appointed February 23, 1657-8 for the consideration of his case. The result of their deliberations is thus recorded: — “Mr. Jackson, minister of Chorlton, being upon some motions for his removal from that place in respect of the shortness of his maintenance, which was manifest to the class. But several of the people appearing and declaring the good success Mr. Jackson (through God’s blessing) hath had in his ministry since his coming thither, and that the people was generally inclined to an earnest desire of his continuance, the class appointed several ministers to go to the said people of Chorlton to endeavour to accommodate the business so that Mr. Jackson might be continued amongst them. The day appointed was March 31, in the afternoon about two of the clock. Mr. Harrison was desired to preach a sermon to the people upon the meeting; Mr. Heyrick, Mr. Angier and Mr. Newcome were desired to meet Mr. Harrison there for the end aforesaid. On the 13th of April 1658, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Newcome gave an account of the meeting at Chorlton according to the order of the last class; and the result of it was that agreement was made between Mr. Jackson and the people there that Mr. Jackson should continue there for one year more, and that the people should engage to make up the augmentation of £35 per annum £50, for the which addition Joshua Taylor, Jonathan Gee, James Parkinson, Henry Mason, John Harrison and Richard Barlow did engage themselves at the said meeting; as also to use their utmost endeavour to procure what was in arrear by virtue of former covenants to the aforesaid Mr. Jackson; as also to do what they could for a further addition of £5 more to the foresaid £50 for the present year; and that in case the £15 was not paid according to this agreement that then Mr. Jackson should be free to remove by consent of the people at the year’s end, upon the classis hearing and judging of such default by them made,—which agreement was approved by the present classe.¹ It is presumed the inhabitants fulfilled their

¹ Account of the Proceedings of the First Presbyterian Classis; a MS. in the Chetham Library, Manchester.

pledge since Mr. Jackson was still resident amongst them in October 1662, and yet later. Certain entries, already alluded to, in the Didsbury Registers, relating to the interment of Mary and Ellen, daughters of the Rev. James Jackson, minister, in the years 1658 and 1666 respectively, lend some slight countenance to the supposition that he was curate also of Didsbury at the same time, but this is mere conjecture. In 1672 one Mr. Richardson, who "preached the sermon at six o'clock on the Lord's day morning at Manchester," was officiating at Chorlton. He was, says Calamy,¹ "a competent scholar and a pious man. He preached by virtue of a license in 1672 at Chorlton, and was very laborious in his Master's work; he died in 1680." The next minister whose name occurs is the Rev. Joshua Hyde. He was exercising the office of Reader or Curate at Chorlton in the year 1691, combining with it probably that of schoolmaster since he was at that time, if not wholly unordained, at least only in deacon's orders. In May 1691 he was nominated by Sir John Egerton on the recommendation of the Warden of Manchester, to the curacy of Denton, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Roger Dale, a request being made at the same time to the Bishop that he would ordain Mr. Hyde, to which he consented. For the next twenty-five years there is a chasm in the list of curates, of which the only explanation that can be offered is that of Warden Wroe, who writing in 1707, and alluding to the chapels of Chorlton and Stretford, speaks of them as having no settled curates for want of endowment. Next follows the Rev. John Thomas B.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford. He was nominated to Chorlton June 26, 1716, by the Warden and Fellows of Manchester, his nomination being signed by the Rev. Richard Wroe, Warden, Roger Bolton and Robert Assheton, Fellows. Mr. Thomas was a native of Chester, and was ordained to Chorlton. In the following year the Rev. Joseph Dale was curate. He held also the neighbouring chapel of Birch. He stated that the inhabitants of Chorlton contributed but £10 a year to his maintenance. Again occurs a break in the chain of succession,

¹ *Abridgment*, vol. ii. p. 99.

and in 1754 the Rev. Robert Oldfield is found discharging the office of curate, and signing in that capacity the transcript of the registers forwarded to Chester. He filled also the office of Librarian at the Chetham Hospital in Manchester from 1726 to 1732, and retiring from Chorlton in 1766 was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Assheton M.A. one of the Fellows of Manchester, whose nomination bears date September 13, and is signed by himself as proxy for the Warden, and by the Revs. John Clayton, Thomas Aynscough and Maurice Griffith, Fellows. From the terms of the nomination itself it is to be inferred that Mr. Assheton's predecessor at Chorlton was the Rev. Thomas Beeley, who resigned the chapel, but as the document is endorsed "The Warden and Fellows' nomination of the Rev. Richard Assheton, one of the Fellows to Chorlton Chapel, vacant by the resignation of Robert Oldfield, late Curate," we are left in doubt. Mr. Assheton retired from the curacy in 1771, and was followed by the Rev. John Salter. His nomination is signed by Samuel Peploe, Warden, John Clayton, Thomas Aynscough, Richard Assheton and Maurice Griffith, Fellows. Mr. Salter died at Chorlton in 1789, and was succeeded by the Rev. Joshua Brookes M.A. of Brazenose College, Oxford. Mr. Brookes was of humble parentage, being the son of a shoemaker at Cheadle Hulme near Stockport, and was baptized at Stockport May 19, 1754. His father, Thomas Brookes, was a cripple of uncouth mien, eccentric manners and great violence of temper; and it is supposed that the possession of these attributes had gained for him the sobriquet of Pontius Pilate. A story has survived, exhibiting in a striking point of view the impetuosity of his temper. Sitting at his door, as was his habit in his later years, the strangeness of his appearance (one invariable article of dress being a red night-cap) attracted the notice of a market-woman who chanced to pass that way, and who in passing addressed to him some rude remark. Eager for revenge and yet unable to follow her by reason of his lameness, he despatched his servant for a sedan-chair, wherewith he was conveyed to the market-place, and having singled out the

object of his indignation, proceeded to belabour her with his crutch with such hearty good-will that a constable's interference was needed to restore peace. He removed his residence from Cheadle Hulme to Manchester whilst Joshua was yet a child, and rented a room at a place called Sot's Hole, behind Ridgefield, whence afterwards he changed to a similar apartment over a gateway in Deansgate, near the Three Arrows Inn, and finally rented a house in a passage in Long Millgate, opposite the residence of Mr. Lawson, at that time High Master of the Grammar School. At the Manchester school Joshua received his education, and being a boy of quick parts was much noticed by the Rev. Thomas Aynscough, one of the Fellows of the Collegiate Church, by whose assistance and that of others of his fellow-townsmen his father was enabled to send him to Oxford, where in due course he graduated (M.A. 1771). In 1782 he was ordained to the stipendiary curacy of Chorlton by Letters Dimissory to the Bishop of Lichfield. His examination for orders was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Hind, Vicar of Rochdale, who under the date October 20, 1782, thus addresses the Bishop of Chester: —

My Lord, — On Thursday last I received the honour of your commands, and yesterday I saw Mr. Brooks. On my examination of him I found that he had not read the books required by your lordship. I asked him some questions, to which his answers were pertinent, and you will see by the enclosed that his translations are *tolerable*, and truly *his own*; but as he had not prepared himself agreeably to your printed directions (for which he pleaded his ignorance of those directions till very lately) and begged his examination might be considered as in part adjourned to the last moment of time that was left to him before the ordination, I readily complied with his request, and am to see him again.

The examination-paper alluded to is Grotius *De Veritate*, Book 2, Sect. vi. In 1783 he was admitted to Priest's Orders by the Bishop of Chester. On the 10th of August 1789 he was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to the perpetual curacy of Chorlton, vacant by the death of the Rev. John Salter, his nomination being

signed by Richard Assheton, Warden, Thomas Aynscough, Maurice Griffith and James Bayley, Fellows. He resigned Chorlton December 23, 1790, on being appointed to a chaplaincy in the Collegiate Church, and dying in November 1821, was buried (November 11) within the Collegiate Church. Much of the father's mental constitution was inherited by the son, in whom however the force of education tended to keep such eccentricities and sudden outbursts of temper in partial check. Many anecdotes are related of his peculiarities, which in him passed almost unnoticed. Whilst reading the burial service he would not unfrequently leave the grave-side, and proceed to the shop of a confectioner in Half-street, overlooking the church-yard, and having procured a supply of horehound drops, would return to his neglected duties, and conclude the service. Another story, too irreverent to be more than alluded to, having reference to a certain interpolation of the burial service, furnished the subject of a caricature, which obtained considerable currency; but this exceeding the fair limits of satire entailed a prosecution upon its author, and a pecuniary fine.

He was at one time an assistant master of the Grammar School. He died unmarried.

On the 17th January 1791 the Rev. Nicholas Mosley Cheek was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to Chorlton Chapel, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Joshua Brookes. His nomination was signed by Richard Assheton, Warden, T. Aynscough, Maurice Griffith and James Bayley, Fellows. In 1796 he appointed the Rev. Roger Mashiter Stipendiary Curate, and in 1801 the Rev. Samuel Stephenson M.A., each of them receiving an annual stipend of £40. He died in 1805.

Mr. Cheek's successor was the Rev. George Hutchinson M.A., who was nominated by the Warden and Fellows October 30, 1805, the nomination being signed by Thomas Blackburn, John Griffith and C. W. Ethelston. The Rev. Samuel Stephenson continued there as stipendiary curate, and in 1807 George Holt, a literate person, was ordained as his successor, being himself followed in

1812 by the Rev. John Collins. In 1816, Mr. Hutchinson having resigned, the Rev. Richard Hutchins Whitelock M.A. Vicar of Skillington in the county of Lincoln and Stipendiary Curate of St. Mark's, Cheetham, was nominated by the Warden and Fellows to Chorlton, to which he was licensed January 5, 1816. His nomination was signed by Thomas Blackburn, Warden, John Gatliff and C. W. Ethelston, Fellows. Mr. Whitelock added to his other preferments the somewhat incongruous office of post-master of Manchester. He died August 14, 1833. On the death of Mr. Whitelock the Rev. Peter Hordern M.A., son of the Rev. Joseph Hordern, formerly Curate of Prestwich and subsequently Incumbent of Shaw, was preferred to the vacant chapel, his nomination being signed by C. D. Wray, Vice-Warden, Oswald Sergeant and Richard Parkinson, Fellows. He was of Brazenose College, Oxford, and was appointed to an exhibition there on the Hulme foundation in 1820. In 1821 he received the appointment of Librarian at the Chetham Hospital, Manchester, which he held till 1834. He died March 28, 1836. The next Incumbent in succession was the Rev. John Morton B.D., whose nomination bears date April 12, 1836, and is signed by T. Calvert, Warden, J. Gatliff, C. D. Wray, Oswald Sergeant and Richard Parkinson, Fellows. Dr. Morton died December 27, 1842, and was succeeded by the Rev. William Birley M.A., the present Incumbent, the date of whose nomination under the hand of the Dean and Chapter is February 17, 1843.

The following is a list of the Curates of Chorlton Chapel as far as their names can now be recovered : —

1598 No Curate but a Reader.

1604 Roger Worthington, Reader.

1617 John Dickenson, Reader.

1636, 1639 John Bradshaw.

1639-1647 John Pollett.

1647-1651 Richard Benson.

1651-1654 John Adcroft.

1654, 1666 James Jackson.

- 1672, — Richardson.
 -1691 Joshua Hyde.
 1716- John Thomas.
 1717, Joseph Dale.
 1754, 1766 Robert Oldfield.
 1766-1771 Richard Assheton.
 1771-1789 John Salter.
 1789-1790 Joshua Brookes.
 1790-1805 Nicholas Mosley Cheek.
 1805-1816 George Hutchinson.
 1816-1833 Richard Hutchins Whitelock.
 1833-1836 Peter Hordern.
 1836-1842 John Morton.
 1842- William Birley.

In 1644, upon the Presbyterian form of church government being established throughout England by ordinance of Parliament, lay elders were chosen by each congregation to assist the minister in the discharge of his function. The duties incident to the office of elder trenching considerably on those of the more formally ordained minister it was necessary that the choice to be exercised at such elections should be made with becoming caution.

For Chorlton Chapel one James Parkinson was chosen ruling elder, against whom, in February 1646, certain exceptions were tendered before the First Lancashire Classis by Nathaniel Taylor. His accusation, with proof, was ordered to be taken at the next meeting of the classis, which accordingly was done March 16, 1646-7.

Accusation against James Parkinson, presented by Nathaniel Taylor.

1. That hee is guilty of fornication ; to ground w^{ch} is produced y^e register of Ashton-under-line, Mr. Stirrups hand, of a daughter *genita ante nuptias*, also a sonne borne within twenty seven weeks after marriage. Thus far y^e register. William Thomas saith that he caryed monye for James Par-

kinson 8^s 8^d to the commissioners, but knows not for what.

2. To the accusation of slander, Will. Hurbboat saith that James Parkinson said (coming by some work), This work stands in much money, but it is no matter if ould Mr. Briou were living, that hee (meaning S^r W^m Brereton) might rob him againe as he hath done here at y^e choosing of knights for the shire.

Another time at goeing for New England, Richard Taylor witnesseth the same thing.

3. To the accusation of swearing, Thomas Blomiley saith he heard him swear and curse above two years.

Nathaniel Taylor saith he heard him swear by his faith not within a year.

4. To the accusation of voilence, James Charlton saith he cast a pot and a fflagon at the face of another man (within a year), the said Thomas Parkinson being first called a knave.

Thomas Blomiley saith he struck his daughter.

5. To the accusation of undue election, Mr. Benson and Nathaniel Taylor objected.

It was ordered by the classis that Parkinson bring his witnesses at their next meeting.

On the 14th April, 1647, James Parkinson produced witnesses for his defence.

George Scoales saith y^t he knoweth not y^t ever y^e said Parkinson had any child by the said woman (whereof he is accused before marriage); that she lived neere to him afterwards.

James Parkinson confesseth y^t y^e child was borne upon New Yeares Daye about eight weeks before time.

James Chorlton and *John Barlow*, elders of Chorlton, next deputed by y^e classis to examine Ellen Hurbboate (not able to come to y^e classis) concerning a second born to the s^d Parkinson upon y^e s^d New Yeares Day; that it was borne without haire or nayles; that shee considered it was borne before time.

Jane Jones exēd, saith that shee saw y^e s^d child within a day y^t it was borne, and y^t it was very weak, could not suck of about eight weeks, and she believeth y^t it was borne about eight weeks before time.

William Arstall (to y^e matter of slander) saithe that hee was present when y^e s^d Parkinson spoke some words concerning S^r W^m Brereton, w^{ch} were theese: That S^r W^m Brereton could not have all, for (if it were true y^t Grantham said) one trunk was gone to New England, another was gone to y^e Shortinge[?]; that one of y^e witnesses y^t went to complain to S^r W^m Brereton was in drink when he went.

Margery Knight ex^d ag^{tt} James Parkinson, saith y^t the said woman wth wh. y^e said Parkinson was accused (whose name was Joane Jones) was mother of this exāiat, and at nineteen years of this examine age told her y^t y^e said Parkinson had held her hands behind her and had abused her; that shee very often complained of this Parkinson for the s^d fact; that y^e s^d Parkinson's father reported her to bee with child presently after.

On the 12th of May, to which day the further consideration of the case had been adjourned, James Parkinson produced another witness in his defence.

Ralph Barlow of Ashton de Mersy Bank, examined, saith that Joane Warburton, afterwards Joane Jones, was a light woman of her love both before marriage, in that state, and in her widowhood; that some discourse passing (during the time of her widowhood) betwixt y^e said widow Jones and y^e said James Parkinson, being desired by y^e said Parkinson, this examinant was present, when y^e said widow Jones denyed y^t ever she reported of y^e said James Parkinson evell behind his back; that y^e said Parkinson desired he might have her good report and she should have his.

The defence being now brought to a close, the question was put upon the proof of such part of the several charges against James Parkinson as is made already, whether the said James Parkinson is to be judged fit in point of qualification, according to the ordi-

nance, to be a ruling member at Chorlton. Resolved in the negative.

On the 8th of March 1647-8, Samuel Taylor brought an appeal from the eldership of Chollerton to the classis in a difference between him and his brother Nathaniel Taylor, accusing the said Nathaniel of having wrongfully slandered him. It was ordered that the said Nathaniel be summoned to appear at the next meeting of the classis, and that the said Samuel have warrant for witnesses.

On the 5th of April 1648, the business of Samuel Taylor was investigated, who being plaintiff against his brother Nathaniel Taylor, brought witness as follows : —

James Chorlton, elder at Chollerton, aged about 50 years, deposed saith : — That Nathaniel Taylor said before y^e jury at Chollerton that Samuel Taylor his brother was a foresworn man ; and y^t at another time as hee was coming to Manchester hee y^e said Nathaniel sayd in p^sence of James Hopwood and a shoemaker y^t his brother Samuel was foresworn in three particulars ; and this deponent does not remember y^t hee made any explication or distinction of his charge of perjury when he first charged him before y^e jury ; and y^e jury suied him y^e said Nathaniel in a *Nolle* for rayling at y^e jury ; and y^e s^d Nathaniel further said before y^e court that y^e Devill was as good a professor as his brother Samuel ; and y^t he also said y^t y^e meeting of Samuel Taylor and his friends was for bad and base ends, and to conspire against his brother, or words to y^t effect.

Josuah Taylor, of Marsledge, aged about 26 yeares, deposed saith : — That Nathaniel his uncle hearing some enquiry after Samuel Taylor this deponents father, y^e s^d Nathaniel answered here hee is like a foresworn man as hee is.

Zachary Taylor, of Rusholme, aged 42 yeares, deposed saith : — That hee y^e s^d deponent being sent by Samuel his brother to y^e said Nathaniel his brother, y^e said Nathaniel, after some other discourses, payled his hands and s^d that he had called his brother Samuel a p^jured man, and y^t he would make it out, and y^t he

instanced in this particular, that Samuel being a juror was bound to present himself and his sonne about y^e brawle as well as Nathaniel and he did it not.

During this day's proceedings there appeared an unwillingness on the part of James Chorlton, elder of Chorlton, to execute his office; whereupon he was called to shew cause why he thus refused. He alleged "Y^t they have never sitten as an elds^{pp}; y^t he is unfit and desires to bee freed from his office." The business deferred till the next classis that Mr. Benson may be acquainted therewith.

On the 3rd of May 1848, the case of Nathaniel Taylor was resumed:—

John Shelmerdine of Rusholme, yeoman, aged 18 yeares, deposed saith, That Nathaniel Taylor sayed that his brother went about to defraid his bro^r Isaac, and made a long discourse in y^e presence of manie men, amongst whom one man which this de^t knowes not said to Nathaniel, If Samuel Taylor bee such a man I wonder you suffer him to live amongst you: And Nathaniel answered y^t he thought hee was as courste a man as lives, if hee bee not a theefe or a murderer; and y^t hee caused his brother Isaac to spend some parte of his portion 10^l or 11^l to get y^e rest. Y^e occasion of this discourse was y^t this deponent asked y^e s^d Nathaniel whether Samuel and hee were agreed about the [a word undecipherable], and thereupon hee entered into this discourse.

June 14th 1648, the further consideration of Taylor's case entered on:— "Nathaniel Taylor having divers times abused y^e classis, this day in y^e face of y^e courte did charge y^e courte to deale, and hath given out very scandalous and false reports ag^{tt} Mr. Hollinworth, preacher of God's Word at Manchester, scandalizing y^e said Mr. Hollinworth before y^e classis, and of such things as are knowne to most of y^e members thereof to bee false and untrue, whereof y^e saide classis cleared him, — the classis hath admonished him and should be glad to see his reformation, w^{ch} if admonition doe not work him unto y^t they conceive it fitt further to proceede against him."

John Barlow, elder at Chorlton, did witness y^t y^e said Nathaniel

Taylor desired him to goe and tell Mr. Hollinworth y^t he was a dishonest man ; secondly an [word illegible] man ; thirdly hee supposed hee was drunk or mad, or els y^t what hee did in y^e classis was of ppose to doe him wronge in his business.

Instead of attempting to rebut the allegations, Nathaniel retorted by making a counter-charge against his brother, but this was found to consist of matter not proper for the classis to deal with ; and on the 13th of February 1648-9, having reviewed the whole case, they announced their decision :—Forasmuch as Nathaniel Taylor hath brought in some exceptions against his brother Samuel Taylor, and upon his appearance refused to make proof of any exception against him whereof we have cognisance, therefore this classe doth clear the said Samuel Taylor from y^e aforesaid exceptions, and do order y^e said Nathaniel Taylor to give satisfaction to the said Samuel Taylor for the wrong he hath done him, viz. acknowledging his fault before this class.

Whether Nathaniel Taylor complied with the decision of the Court does not appear ; he is not heard of again.

Chorlton has but one Charity exclusively its own —

USHERWOOD'S CHARITY.

Margaret Usherwood, by will, bearing date August 23, 1742, and proved at Chester April 2, 1773, gave to Richard Broome, Nathaniel Gee, Jonathan Lowe and Samuel Bradshaw, all the residue of her estate after the payment of several legacies, her debts and funeral expenses, upon trust that they should put the same out at interest upon such securities as they should think meet ; and that they should nominate six poor children whose parents should, or did when living, frequent Chorlton Chapel, and more particularly such as should bear the surnames of Warburton or Williamson ; and should, after such choice, provide for each of such poor children a blue gown and a blue cap, a blue pair of stockings, a shirt and a pair of shoes, and should at the end of two years next after such nomination provide for each of such children such apparel as was thereafter mentioned ; and that they should,

for the term of four years next after such nomination, pay the schoolwages for the instructing such poor children in reading, and should at the end of such fourth year, elect such six other poor children from time to time, to be clothed and instructed as aforesaid, and so from four years to four years: And she directed that if any such poor children as should be chosen should not frequent the said Chapel on every Lord's Day and there remain during Divine Service in such part of the said Chapel as her trustees should appoint, unless prevented by sickness or inevitable necessity, such child should be by the said trustees deprived of any benefit by her intended, both with respect to apparel and learning: And she directed that if the residue of her estate should prove insufficient to provide for six poor children as aforesaid, the trustees should only nominate so many poor children as might by the yearly interest be clothed and instructed: And she further directed, that upon the death of any two trustees, the survivors should take to them two such other persons inhabiting within Chorlton as they should think fit, to join with them in the execution of the trusts, and so from time to time; — and she appointed the said trustees executors of her will.

It does not appear that any appointment of trustees has taken place by deed since the death of the testatrix, but whenever the trustees have been reduced by death to two, the survivors have elected two others inhabitants of Chorlton. The trustees, at the time of our inquiry, were Edward Mason, James Gresty, and Thomas Taylor; but it was proposed to make a new appointment, James Gresty being eighty-five years of age, and Thomas Taylor having never acted in the management of the trust, and being anxious to be discharged. The sum of £160, supposed to have been the produce of the above-mentioned bequest, is now in the hands of Robert Fielden, Esq., as the personal representative of Frances Bayley, widow, who died in 1818, and is secured by a bond dated July 13, 1809, given by the said Frances Bayley to Edward Mason, James Gresty and Thomas Taylor for £160 with lawful interest, payable to the above-named trustees or their successors

legally appointed to act as trustees. This interest of £8 has been paid to the trustees by Mr. Fielden since the death of Mrs. Bayley. Out of this income the trustees pay for the instruction of six poor children of the township of Chorlton, the boys being taught reading and writing, and the girls reading and sewing. Previously to the year 1817 two of these children were clothed, a preference being given to those who bore the name of Warburton or Williamson ; but in consequence of an increase which took place in the charge for schooling and books, and one of the trustees who acted as treasurer having become in advance to the charity, it was thought advisable to discontinue the clothing. In 1824, the state of the funds being such as to admit of that expense, two children were clothed as formerly. No clothing was allowed in 1825 ; but in making up the accounts in September in that year there was a balance of £2 6s. 2d. in the hands of Mr. Edward Mason, who keeps the accounts.

The parents of the children are directed by the trustees to take care that they attend Divine Service on Sundays at Chorlton Chapel, and seats at the altar are provided for them.¹

For charities of Sir Edward Mosley, Knt., and Dame Ann Bland, in which Chorlton participates, see under Didsbury, pp. 100-104.

¹ Commissioners' Report, vol. xvi. pp. 190, 191.

ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 9, line 16. — The White Hall estate was held on lease by Sir Nicholas Mosley at the time of his death from the Trafford family, to whom it had anciently appertained. It had however passed intermediately by purchase, a few years before the death of Sir Nicholas, to Edward Mosley Esq. his younger son, and had been by him subsequently reconveyed to its earlier possessors. By indenture made 10th August 43 Elizabeth (1600), between Edward Mosley of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex Gent. on the one part, and Edmund Trafford of Trafford Esq. on the other part, — it is witnessed that whereas the said Edmund Trafford did heretofore, by his indenture of bargain and sale made betwixt the said parties, and dated 16th November 39 Elizabeth (1596), give, grant, bargain and sell to the said Edward Mosley and his heirs the reversion of all that capital messuage commonly called White Hall, lying in the Houghe in the parish of Wilmslow in the county of Chester, and all houses, rents, services, &c. to the said reversion pertaining, and all his right, title, claim, deeds, evidences, &c.; the said Edward Mosley does now by this present indenture, for valuable consideration to him paid by the said Edmund Trafford, grant, sell, &c. unto the said Edmund Trafford his heirs &c. for ever, all and every the said reversion of the said capital messuage &c., to have and to hold the same for ever to and for the only use and intent expressed in an indenture &c., namely to the use of the said Edmund and Dame Mildred his wife for the term of their lives; with remainder to Cecil Trafford their son and his heirs male; with remainder to the other sons of the said Edmund and Dame Mildred; with remainder to the right heirs of the said Edmund. (Signed) EDW. MOSLEY.

Endorsed: "Conveyance of y^e Whitehall from S^r Edw. Mosley to S^r Edmund Trafford, 43 Elizabeth."

Page 30, line 33. — For Rev. R. M. Mosley read Rev. R. M. Fielden.

Page 108, line 7. — Matthew de Hathersage grants certain lands, a part of his recently acquired manor of Withington, to Richard, son of H. de Hondforth, and his heirs. The deed, which is without date, is witnessed by W. Doyle, Rob. Dunes, Ri. de Croft, Rob. de Redish, Will. de Tuncleuez, W. le Noreys, and Matt. de Birchis. By a similar deed, undated, he grants other lands in Withington to Geoffrey de Rosden and his heirs, being the same lands which Hortredus de Brabery formerly held. This deed is witnessed by Hugh Fitton, H. de Chetam, Ri. de Biron, Ralph de Moston, Rob. de Redish, Roger son of Roger de Barlow. The date of it, like that of the previous deed, may probably be referred to the reign of Edward II. Attached, is a pendant seal bearing the arms of Hathersage.

Page 114, line 27. — Kuerden's MS. (quoted in the *Lanc. MSS.* vol. xxv. pp. 55, 56) gives abstracts of three deeds relating to the Withington family :

1. Noverint p'sentes &c. Odo fil' Ingrith de Withinton p' salut' animæ dedi in puram elemosinam quādam partem terræ meæ in Withinton, scilicet 8 acras terræ juxta magnum fossatum ex australi parte sicut Ormeus de Mershel &c.
2. Om' sanet' Od. fil' Ingerith dedisse quādam porcionem terræ meæ infra divisas de Withington, seil' in parte aquilone ejusdem villæ duas fossatas sicut Ormeus ten' siqua . . . de m . . . sc' in parte aquilone ejusdem villæ cum mess' et 4 aer' de magno fossato pro servicio ecclesiæ versus terram Walteri de Quttington in puram elemos' quiete ab omn' consuet' &c.
3. Noverint Walcot de Withington fil' Utredi pro salute anim' patris et matris ded. Deo et Beatæ Mariæ de Cokersand in puram elemosinam terram de Quiteroft infra has divisas viz. de Telebroc ex transverso p' assartum Rob'ti fil' Swain et per cartam Jordan fratris sui usque ad magnum fossatum ascend usque ad p'uam fossatam ex opposita parte . . . [torn] Andrea Baiard et de p'uv foss . . . transv'so usque ad sepem q . . . ext' usque ad Telebroc descend usque ad assartum Rob. fil' Suaini . . . [torn].

The date of these several deeds is, by conjecture, about 1080.

Page 264. — *Dele* last line of note.

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The Fourteenth Report

OF THE

COUNCIL OF THE CHETHAM SOCIETY,

*Read at the Annual Meeting of the Society,
held on the 2nd of March, 1857.*

As the two first Publications for the last year are continuations of works referred to in previous reports, and have now been for some months in the hands of the Members, the Council deem it the less necessary to advert to them in any lengthened notice.

The first, which forms Volume XL. of the series of the Society's Publications, is Vol. II. Part I. of *Dr. Byrom's Journal and Remains*, edited by the Rev. Dr. PARKINSON, and extends from March 1736 to July 1742, when Byrom obtained the act of parliament for securing to him the copy-right of his System of Shorthand. In point of amusement and historical and biographical value the present portion of this delightful work will not be found to yield to the two preceding parts; and a reference to the Accounts of the Society for the past year will show, what the Members are bound most gratefully to acknowledge, that the entire expense of this volume, like that of its predecessors, has been defrayed by the continued munificence of Miss ATHERTON.

Part II. of the *Shuttleworth Accounts*, edited by Mr. HARLAND, constituting Volume XLI. of the Chetham series, and being the second publication for the last year, concludes the Accounts, and contains two valuable Appendices, the first giving a copious and very interesting account of the Shuttleworth family and a detailed description of Gaw-

thorpe, and the second a collection from various authorities of the prices of labour, commodities and provisions in England during the period embraced by the Shuttleworth Accounts, which forms a very useful addition and supplement to them. The Appendices are succeeded by a most elaborate series of Notes, alphabetically arranged and referring to every head of importance disclosed in the Accounts, and of which in the present Part the commencement only, as far as *Br*, is given. It is however quite sufficient to show what an extraordinary amount of various information this work will comprise, when completed, and when only the extent of historical illustration, which its able and laborious editor will have brought together, can be fully felt and fairly appreciated. To this part of the Shuttleworth Accounts a portrait of Lawrence Shuttleworth, the builder of Gawthorpe, from an original painting now remaining there, is prefixed.

The third volume for the year just completed, and Volume XLII. of the Chetham Series, is *An Historical Account of the Ancient Parochial Chapel of Didsbury and of the Chapel of Chorlton*, by the REV. JOHN BOOKER. This is very nearly ready for the binder's hand, and will form a volume of about 320 pages, with four accompanying engravings, of Didsbury Chapel in 1620; Chorlton Chapel, taken down in 1779; Hough End, the ancient seat of the Mosleys; and Reddish Hall, the ancient seat of the Reddish family. The Council are satisfied that this important addition to Mr. Booker's previous topographical labours will be received with great pleasure by the members of the Chetham Society. It is hoped that he will be induced to continue this valuable series of publications, so as to add the remaining chapelries in the parish of Manchester to those of Blackley, Denton, Didsbury, and Chorlton, of which he has furnished so accurate and satisfactory an historical record.

The Publications in progress are —

1. *Byrom's Journal and Remains*, Vol. II. Part II.
2. *Lancashire and Cheshire Wills*. Edited by the Rev. G. J. PICCOPE.
3. *The Shuttleworth Accounts*, Part 3. Edited by J. HARLAND, Esq.
4. *Remains of the Rev. John Wilson of Clitheroe*. Edited by the Rev. F. R. RAINES, Hon. Canon of Manchester.
5. *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Tracts for and against Popery published in the time of James the Second, now in the Chetham Library, incorporating the whole of Peck's Catalogue of the Tracts on that Controversy*. Edited by THOMAS JONES, Esq., Librarian to the Chetham Library.

6. *Worthington's Diary and Correspondence*, the concluding part of the second volume.

7. *Nathan Walworth's Correspondence with Peter Seddon, of Outwood, near Manchester, from 1623 to 1654.* Edited by ROBERT SCARR SOWLER, Esq.

8. *Heraldic Visitations of Lancashire.* Edited by T. DORNING HIBBERT, Esq.

9. *Collectanea Anglo-Poetica, or Bibliographical Notices of some of the rarer Poetical Volumes in the Library of a Lancashire Resident.*

ARTHUR HENRY HEYWOOD, Treasurer, in Account with the Chetham Society,

DR.

From 1st March, 1856, to 25th February, 1857.

CR.

	L.	S.	D.
1 Arrear of 1853-4, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
1 Collected	1	0	0
13 Arrears of 1854-5, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
13 Collected	13	0	0
190 Arrears of 1855-6, reported at last Annual Meeting.			
183 Collected	183	0	0
2 Outstanding.			
7 Subscriptions of 1856-7, accounted for last year.			
276 Collected	276	6	6
Now in arrear.			
44 Life Members			
350			
Subscriptions for 1857-8 paid in advance..	10	0	0
Composition for Life Membership	20	0	0
Books supplied to Members	33	6	8
Dividend on £250.....	7	0	0
Received from Members for Postage of Books	0	7	6
Interest from the Bank.....	14	2	1
Miss Atherton, being the cost of vol. 40, Byrom's Remains, vol. ii. part i.....	145	15	0
Balance on hand March 1st, 1856	234	18	2
	<u>£993</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>

	L.	S.	D.
1856.			
Mar. 31. Hire of Room for Meeting.....	0	7	6
Apr. 30. Postages.....	2	0	0
May 22. Returned to Rev. T. F. Smith, for subscription paid in error 22 April, 1855	1	0	0
„ 30. George Simms, for binding, &c., vols. 35, 37, 38, and 39.....	80	17	0
June 16. Charles Simms and Co., for balance of printing, &c., vol. 39, and sundries	58	8	6
July 31. Ditto, balance of printing vols. 40 and 41, and sundries	171	17	4
„ „ Postages	1	0	0
Aug. 1. Advertising Meeting of 1856.....	0	7	6
„ 16. George Simms, for binding, &c., vols. 40 and 41	40	0	0
„ 21. Carriage of parcel to Chester	0	2	0
Sept. 3. Postages.....	0	5	0
Oct. 2. Rowley and Brown, for Engraving, &c., vol. 42	15	14	2
Dec. 24. Charles Simms and Co., on account of volumes in the press.....	220	0	0
„ 30. Tyler for Woodcuts, vol. 42	5	16	0
„ 31. Stamps and Postages	0	6	7
1857.			
Feb. 27. Advertising Meeting	0	4	6
	<u>£598</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
Feb. 28. Balance on hand.....	395	3	4
	<u>£993</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>

Audited by us and found correct.

JOSEPH PEEL.

GEORGE PEEL.

B. DENNISON NAYLOR.

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Cricklade, Gloucestershire
- *Wilton, The Earl of, Heaton House
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- Wright, Rev. Henry, M.A., Mottram St. Andrew's, near
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